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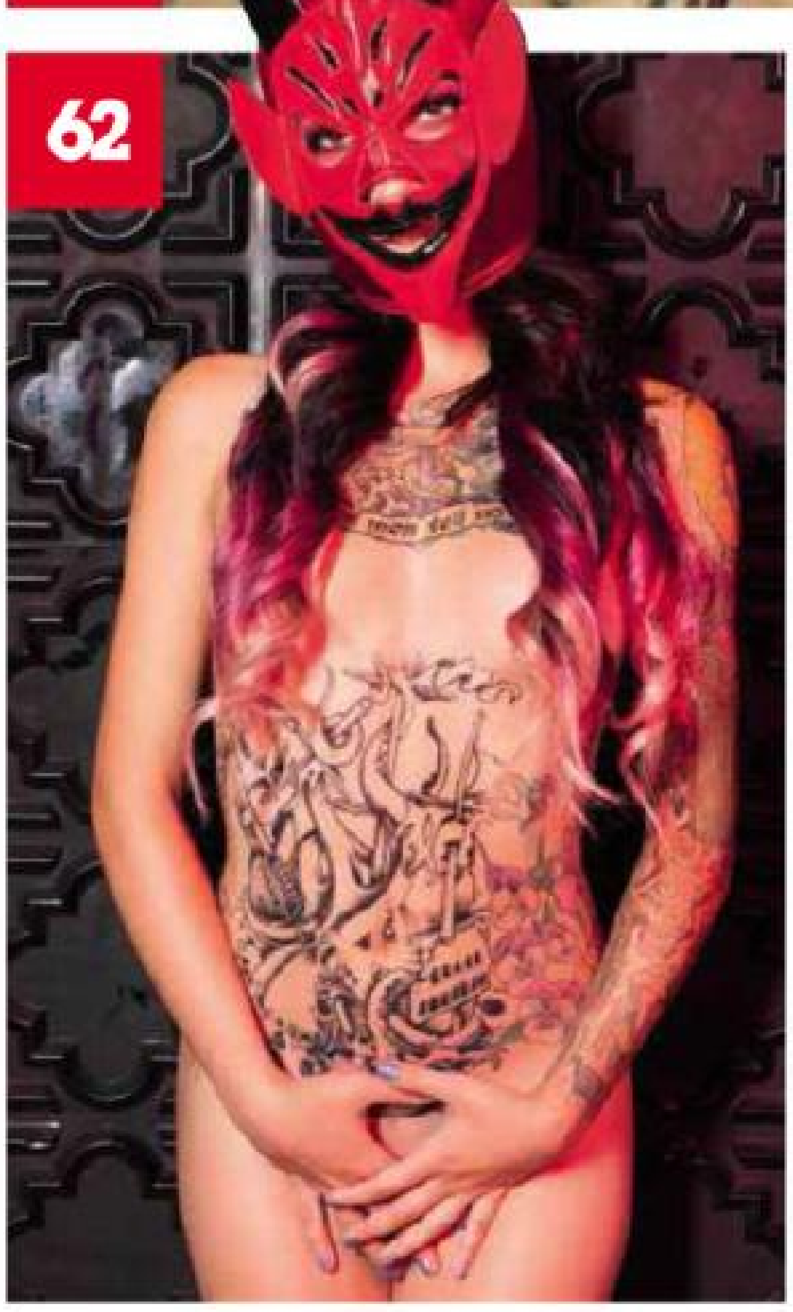

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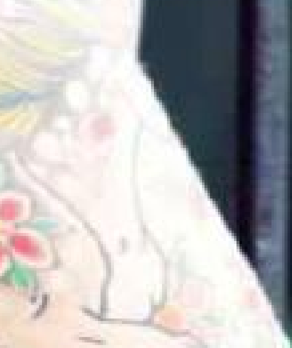

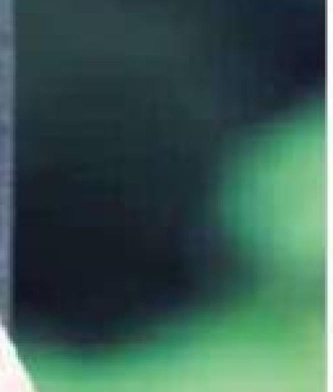

THE GRINDER

Your monthly mash-up of NEWS, VIEWS, OOZE and OOHS!

LOVERS

WORDS
AMANDA COBAN
PICTURES
ESTER SEGARRA

Two *Bizarre* readers who found love through our alternative dating site, **Savage Hearts** – **Savagehearts.co.uk** – recently announced they're getting married. And to celebrate the couple's happy engagement, our friends at **Buyagift.com** threw them off a 160ft-high platform...

NOTHING WARMS *BIZARRE*'S COLD, black heart more than young love. Well, nothing aside from pant-filling terror, that is...

In *Bizarre 193* we printed a letter from our readers Katy and Shaun, who met through the Savage Hearts alternative dating website, **Savagehearts.co.uk**.

Since being featured in the magazine Katy and Shaun have stayed in touch with Team Bizarre, and in our 200th issue they told us about the arrival of their son, Felix, and more recently shared the happy news of their engagement in *Bizarre 212*.

Thanks to **Buyagift.com**, we were able to offer the pair a once-in-a-lifetime experience, where Katy and Shaun were thrown from a 160ft-high platform in a tandem bungee jump. Check out these photos, which prove that falling in love can take you to dizzying new heights...

> **"The tandem bungee was amazing!"**

So, how did you feel on the morning of your dramatic tandem bungee jump? →

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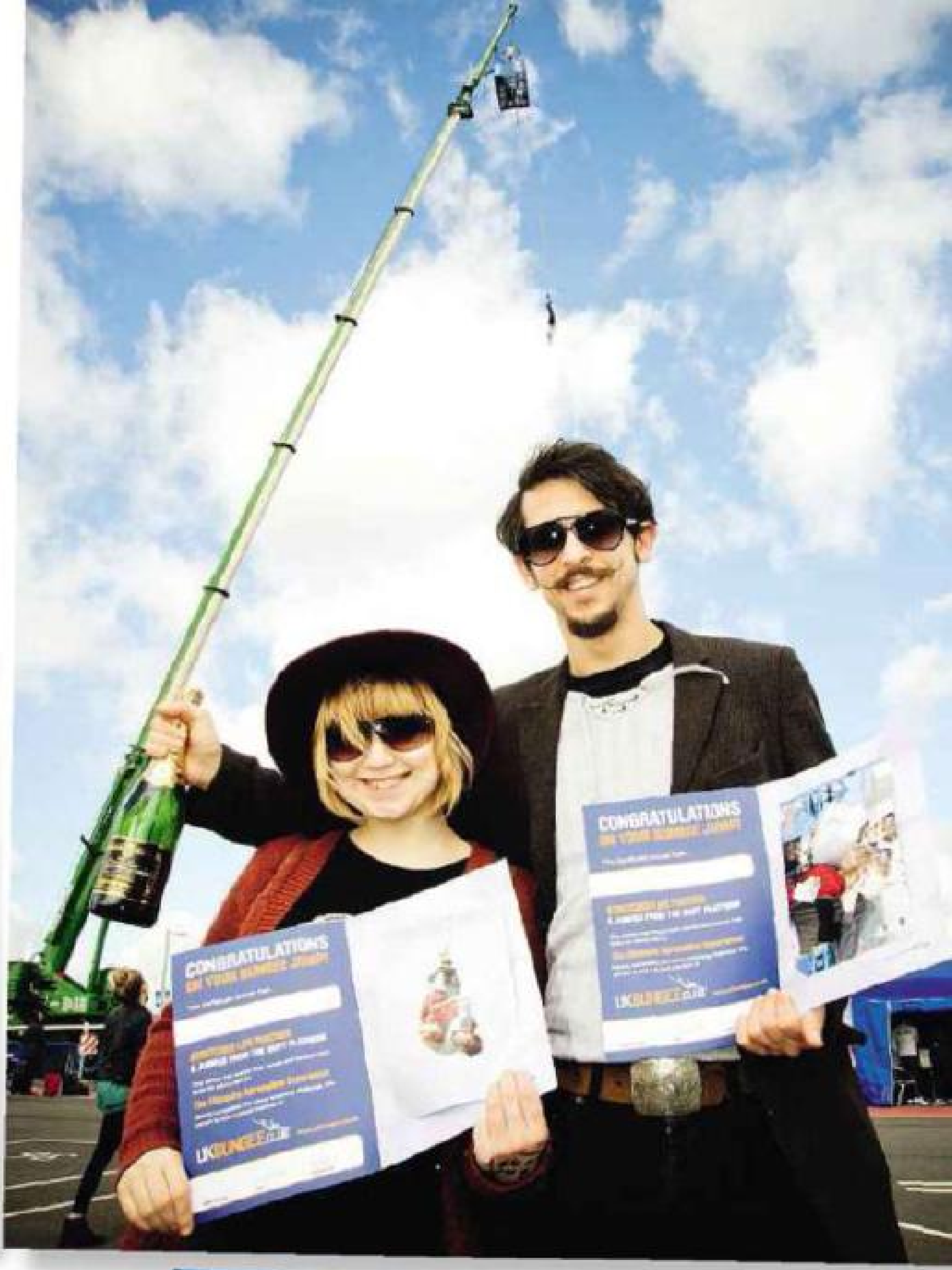

"We'd never have met without Savage Hearts"

Shaun: We were both unsettlingly calm! The prospect of the jump didn't seem to faze us, but maybe we should have been more nervous. But we were sensible and only had a small breakfast that morning, just in case!

Had either of you ever done something as daring as this before?

Katy: I'd always wanted to try my hand at an extreme sport, but time and money have always held me back. I guess I was always an aspiring adrenaline junkie! Now, after experiencing my first ever bungee jump, I want to do it all over again. And even higher next time!

Shaun: I wouldn't call myself an adrenaline junkie, but I've always enjoyed activities that get my heart racing. I've competed in kickboxing and mixed martial arts for a number of years, but I've always fancied throwing myself off a crane.

How was the view from up there?

Katy: Surprisingly, the 160ft-high crane didn't seem too high from the ground. It wasn't until we were in the air and looking at the surrounding area that the fear hit me. I felt a bit wobbly! The experience was amazing – words can't describe it. You need to experience it yourself to understand how exciting it feels.

Shaun: The experience definitely gave us a taste for bungee jumping – Katy and I have decided we want do to a 300ft jump now.

Who screamed the loudest?

Shaun: I think I screamed the loudest, but I have much bigger lungs. Immediately afterwards, I wanted to go again! It was like a massive sugar rush and energy boost.

Katy: I swore like a trooper when I saw the ground rushing towards me!

What does your son think of his parents' huge leap?

Katy: He was at home with his grandparents at the time, but when he's old enough to understand I'm sure he'll think we're pretty cool. Hopefully he won't want to start jumping off tall things, though!

Stroke their egos and give some love to SavageHearts.com and Buyagift.com, who made the jump possible...

Katy: We want to say a massive thank you! Savage Hearts brought us together, and I couldn't have asked for more in a partner. Shaun and I have been reading *Bizarre* for a long time, so this means a lot to us. And thank you Buyagift.com for making our wonderful experience possible. We'll definitely be looking on your website for more adventures.

Shaun: Thanks Savage Hearts! Without you, I'd never have met Katy. Thanks to everyone involved for giving us this amazing gift. **Amanda Coban**

Jump on the web and head to Buyagift.com for more incredible experiences across the UK

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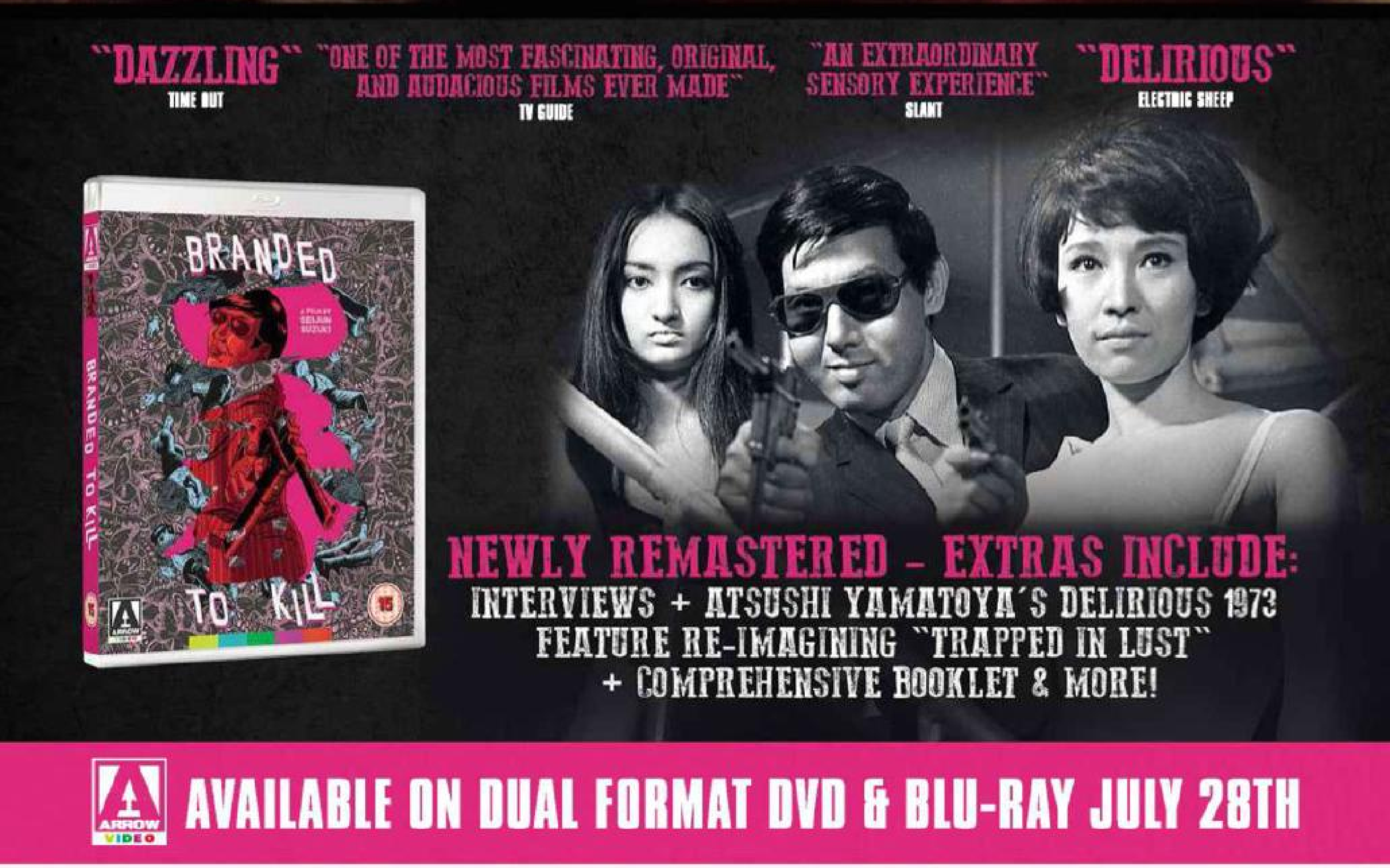

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THAT'S WHY MUM'S GONE TO ICELAND...

Bizarre takes a wander around the world's only penis museum, in the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik

WHEN THINKING ABOUT ICELAND YOU may conjure mental images of incredible landscapes, bubbling volcanoes and luscious hot springs. But there's more to this beautiful country than high exchange rates and pubs charging around £800 for a pint of beer: it also has the world's first penis museum.

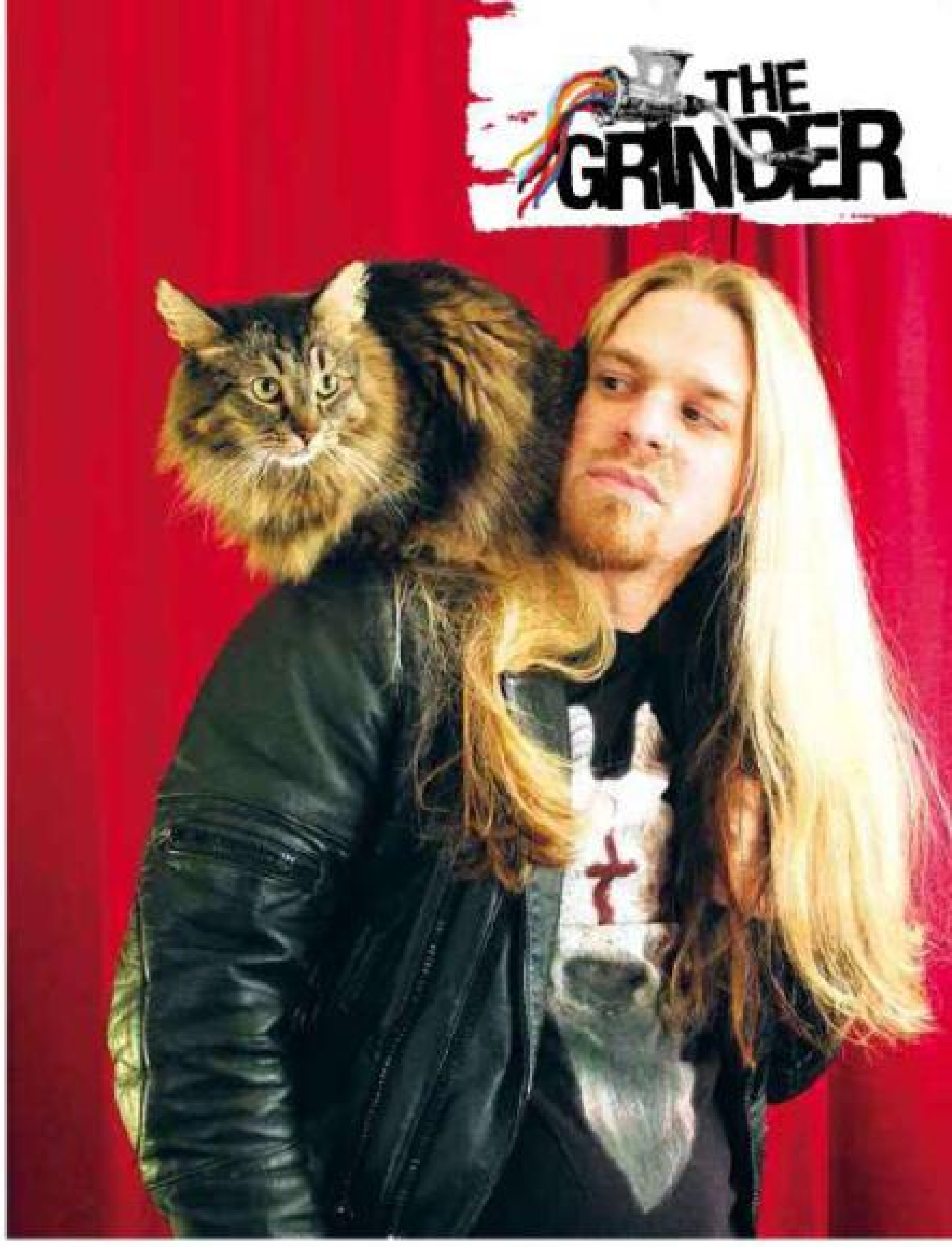
First opened in 1997 – but situated in new premises since November 2011 – the Icelandic Phallological Museum houses more than 100 dick-related specimens, and has everything from 6ft-tall blue whale peckers to boomstick moulds donated by evidently proud gentlemen from around the world.

The museum is run by Hjortur Gisli Sigurdsson, whose father first started collecting preserved love muscles in 1974 when someone gave him a dried bull's cock as a joke. "That inspired him to start collecting these things," says Sigurdsson. "By 1997 he had about 60 specimens, so he opened his collection to the public. In 2011 he retired and I took over as director of the museum, and I found a great spot in Reykjavik and moved the collection there."

Sigurdsson sources middle legs from all over the world. Most recently, hunters sent him an Icelandic reindeer dong and an African giraffe prick from northern Namibia. But *Bizarre* readers opposed to hunting will be relieved to hear that his specimens come from a wide variety of sources. "People are constantly sending me wonderful things," says Sigurdsson. "Last year a doctor sent me a bunch of penis bones from North American raccoons that he'd collected over the years as part of his research."

And it seems that some men are hoping to donate their own tallywhackers after death, too. Already on a list of willing donors are an Englishman, two Germans, and an American. But they won't be the first to claim museum space – a local guy (now dead, of course) holds that honour. "We have a human penis in the museum," reveals Sigurdsson. "It was harvested from an Icelandic guy in 2011. He died at the ripe old age of 95 and his penis had, in his own words, 'shrunk a little over the years'."

For more on the museum, visit Phallus.is



METAL GETS CUTE!

New book *Metal Cats* teams metal-heads with pretty pussycats. Awwww, sweet!

WHAT DO YOU GET IF YOU CROSS a soppy moggy with a metaller? No, not a joke with a shit punchline such as 'Rob Meow-ford' (God forbid!), but a book that crosses cats with, er, metallers.

Metal Cats pairs extreme metal musicians with their furry felines in a series of paradoxical portraits snapped by San Francisco musician and jewellery maker, Alexandra Crockett.

The book features a series of metal heavyweights, including members of Morbid Angel, Cattle Decapitation and Lighting Swords Of Death, all gleefully posing next to their sweet, Whiskas-chomping mousers.

While the book is genuinely hilarious, it's also designed to give readers a peek behind the macho curtain that surrounds the world of metal, and show that behind the evil gurns and lyrics about sodomy and serial killers are normal people with warm, loving hearts.

The opening essay in *Metal Cats* examines the persecution of 'evil' cats during the Middle Ages, and draws parallels with how metal-heads have often been vilified in the modern world. So we guess what it's trying to say is that metallers are just a bunch of pussycats.

Metal Cats is *Bizarre*'s favourite book of the year so far. What's more, a percentage of the book's profits will be donated to animal shelters in the US. And that sounds like a *purr-fect* deal to us...

Metal Cats by Alexandra Crockett is out now, published by PowerHouse Books

ALL HAIL BABYMETAL!

Japanese teen metal act to make their UK debut at the mighty Sonisphere

WE LOVE IT WHEN MUSIC FESTIVALS play a wild card. In 2013 it was *Bizarre* art director Dave Kelsall strumming his pubes through a Marshall amp at the Dagenham Community May Day Fayre that got us excited. However, this year we're most looking forward to seeing Japanese viral sensations Babymetal make their UK debut at Sonisphere.

Best described as a strange, super-sweet cross between *X-Factor* pop and thrashy power metal, the trio's debut video 'Gimme Chocolate!!' scored millions of hits on YouTube, while both the mainstream and music press in the UK have reported favourably on their shenanigans.

Babymetal will be rocking their cutesy racket on Sunday at Sonisphere. We'd hoped to interview the band in *Bizarre* – but given the fact they're all under 18, their management politely (and understandably) declined an opportunity to appear in your favourite filth rag.

Sonisphere is happening from 4–6 July at Knebworth Park, with a line-up that also includes Metallica, Iron Maiden, The Prodigy, Deftones, Carcass and Ghost BC. Visit Sonisphere.com to find out more

PICTURE: MICHAEL STOKES COLLECTION / TASCHEN

PICTURE: MICHAEL STOKES COLLECTION / TASCHEN

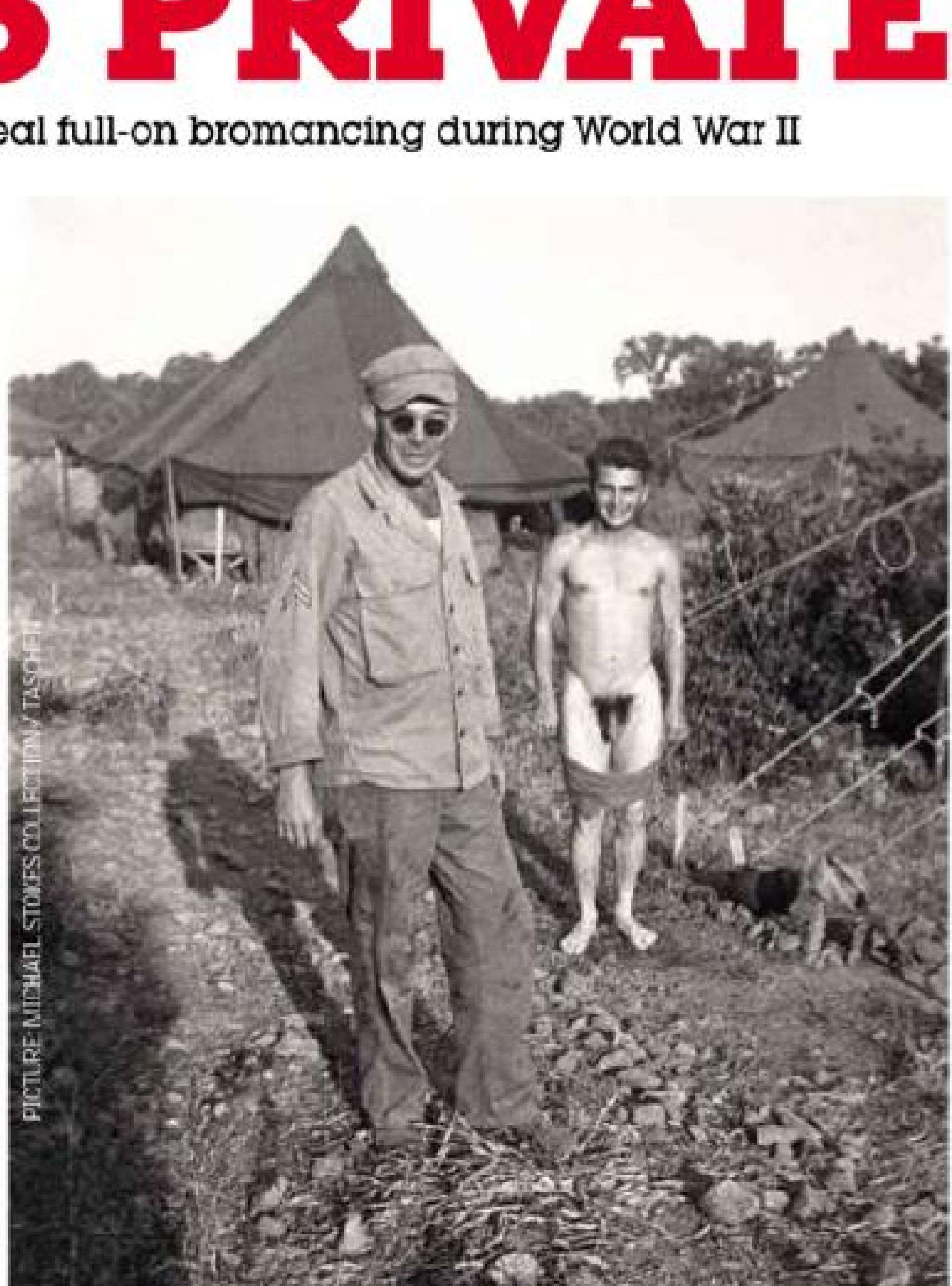
SHOWING RYAN'S PRIVATES

Newly published army photos reveal full-on bromancing during World War II

***PULP FICTION* DIRECTOR QUENTIN** Tarantino once claimed that military action flick *Top Gun* is the gayest film ever made, and that it symbolises one man's struggle with his homosexuality. So goodness knows what he'd make of *My Buddy: World War II Laid Bare*, a poignant, revelatory new book that shows the intimate bonds formed between soldiers facing the horrors of armed combat.

Collecting rare and personal photographs taken by Allied forces during World War II, it features naked Russian soldiers performing gymnastics, and US troops skinny dipping in lakes and massaging each other on beaches.

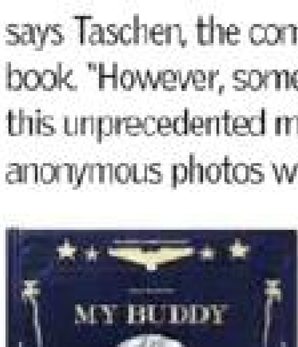
During World War II nude horseplay was actively encouraged by Army superiors in a bid to improve morale and build intimacy between troops, in the hope that close pals would support each other in battle. And when soldiers were living, shitting and dying in front of each other on a daily basis, having your spitting cobra on show was never a taboo.



PICTURE: MICHAEL STOKES COLLECTION / TASCHEN

At the time these photographs were taken homosexuality was outlawed by forces involved in the global conflict, and if you were suspected of being gay you were booted out and sent home. And given the prejudice that haunted gay troops, this insight into wartime army life is all the more profound, thought-provoking and touching (no cheap pun intended).

"The full extent of nude horseplay among men during World War II can't be known, as cameras were rare and film hard to process," says Taschen, the company publishing the book. "However, some men did document this unprecedented male bonding in small, anonymous photos which were mostly kept hidden away until their deaths."



My Buddy: World War II Laid Bare by Dian Hanson is out now. Visit Taschen.com

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THE NEXT **20 PAGES** ARE DEDICATED TO YOU, YOU, YOU!

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PRIVATES ON PARADE!

Ultra Vixen **Anna Quinn** will make you stand to attention! **p30**

PluS!

Junk Mail
Your letters and photos!

Your Body Art
Your ink'n'iron!

Readers' Art
Your deranged doodles!

PICTURE: JULIJKAI IMAGERY – EROTIC INK

RANT AT US AND SEND US SHIT!

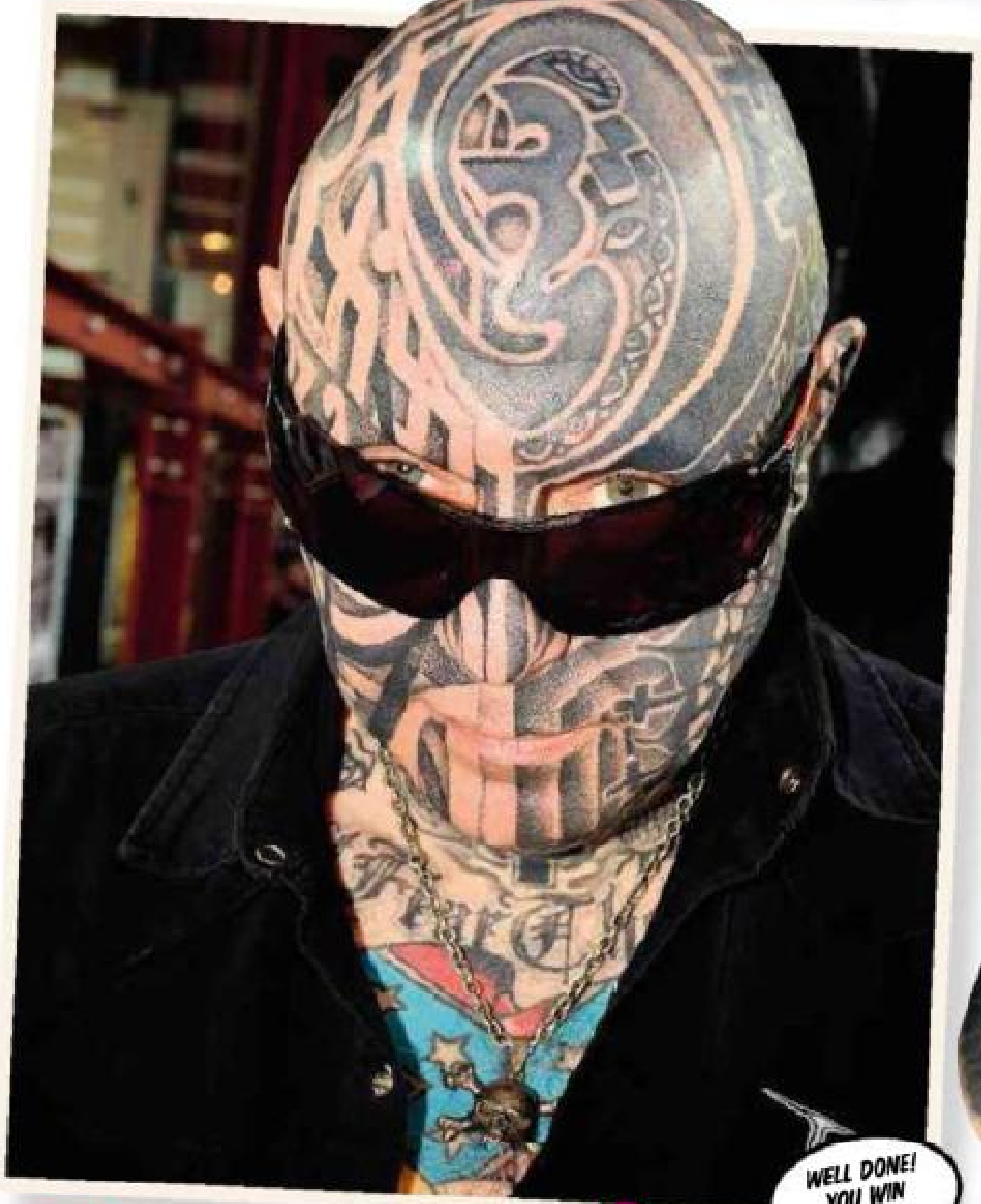
Bizarre's own **Mandatron** loves nothing better than greasing her circuits, pressing her buttons and blowing a fuse over your crazy photos, perverted art and impressive ink. Send in your stuff now, and serve your friendly neighbourhood robot! **Mandatron's favourite submissions will make it onto these hallowed pages!**

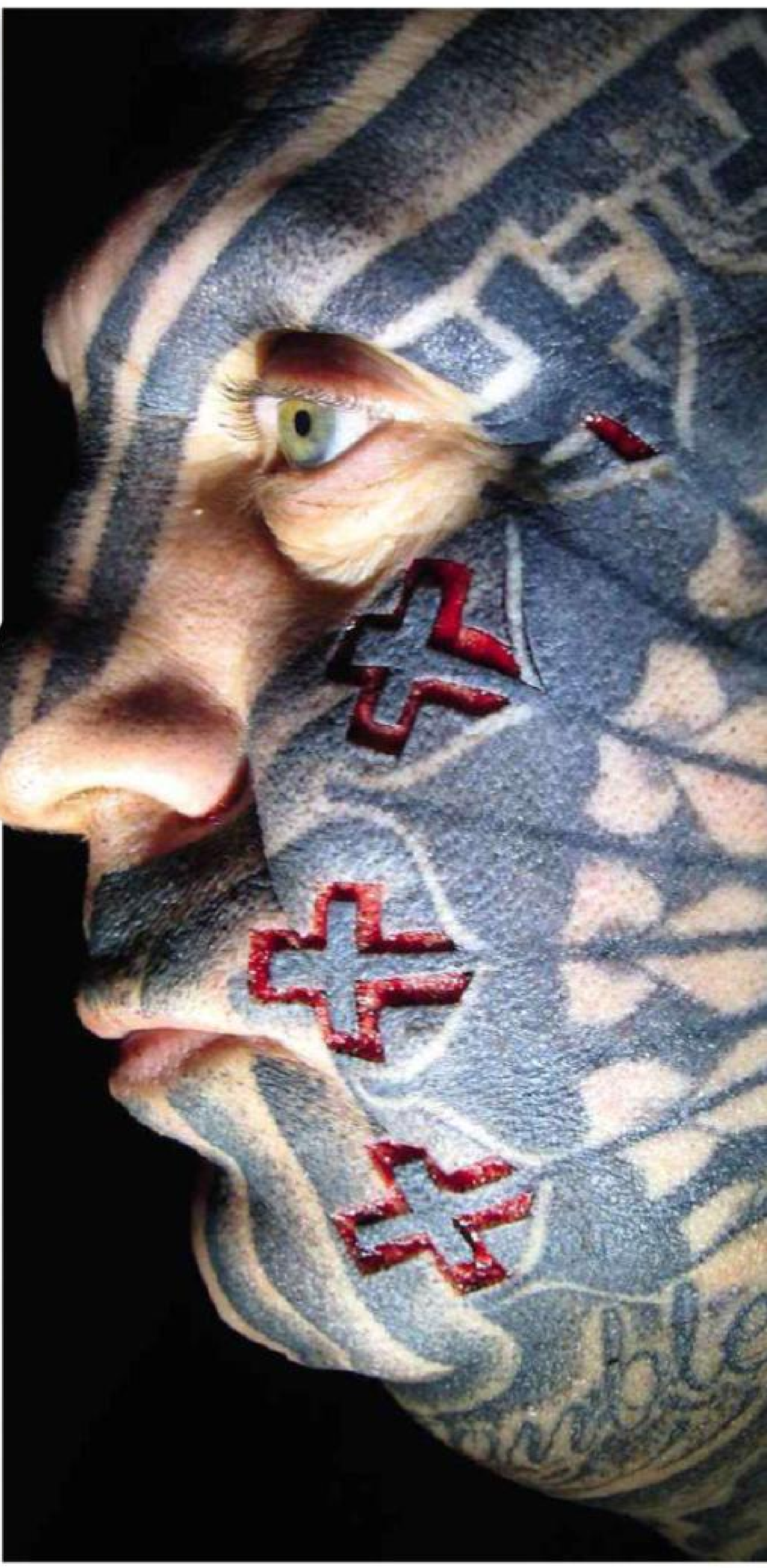
BIZARRE Junk mail

POSTAL ADDRESS
JUNK MAIL, BIZARRE,
PO BOX 59844, LONDON SW14 9BH

EDITED BY MANDATRON
Mandatron@blackthorncommunications.com

SEND US YOUR STUFF!





Dumpstar!

WELL DONE! YOU WIN NOTHING!

MY MODIFICATION JOURNEY

I'd like to share the story of my body transformation, which was the work of Touka Voodoo at the Divine Canvas studio in London. I love writing about body modifications, especially tattoos, and I'd love to be a spokesperson for modified people. I'd be keen to help anyone who has questions or concerns about their own mod journey or extreme tattoos.

I got my first tattoo when I was just 17, but my head and face transformation began about three years ago with a small ace of spades design beneath my left eye.

My first scarification experience was on the right side of my face. First I was injected with the same numbing solution that dentists use, including the tip of my nose where body mod legend Iestyn Fye also managed to removed a cyst during the scarification process. The injections hurt more than the cuts!

The reactions I get in my home town could be the subject of a book. Some people I meet express feelings of shock, horror, anger and fear, others show indifference, while the rest show admiration and praise for my modifications.

Since these photos were taken I've had even more tattoo work done on my face (believe it or not!), and I also have a large backpiece in progress.

Keith Gordon, via email

***Bizarre* says: It's always great to hear from folk who are proud to be different! Make sure you keep us posted about your latest transformations, otherwise we might not recognise you at upcoming tattoo conventions...**

PHOTO: TOTAL CHAOS PHOTOGRAPHY

ARTY ALISTAIR THE ALT.MODEL

I've been a fan of *Bizarre* for years, and had my Type O Negative sculpture featured in your 'Readers' Art' pages in *Bizarre 173*. It's hard to pick my favourite section of the magazine – naturally, I have a keen interest in the art and tattoo pages, but I also like anything to do with the circus, performance art and random facts. Essentially, I most like the elements of the magazine that are like an alternative *QI*, but with Dr Blackthorn instead of Stephen Fry!

I'm a UK-signed agency model (right), and I've been in the industry for two years. I specialise in the alternative scene and art projects, and I also collaborate on commercial ventures with bands and clothing labels, and work as an extra in films and music videos.

I'm now hoping to expand my portfolio and collaborate with like-minded people on creative projects including photography, make-up and special effects. I'd love to meet people who need a professional and reliable model who isn't afraid to help take their ideas to the next level. You can see my portfolio at **Facebook.com/AlistairDysonModel** – if anyone would like to contact me, just send me a message... I won't bite!

Alistair Dyson, via email

HERE COME THE BR-AAAINS!

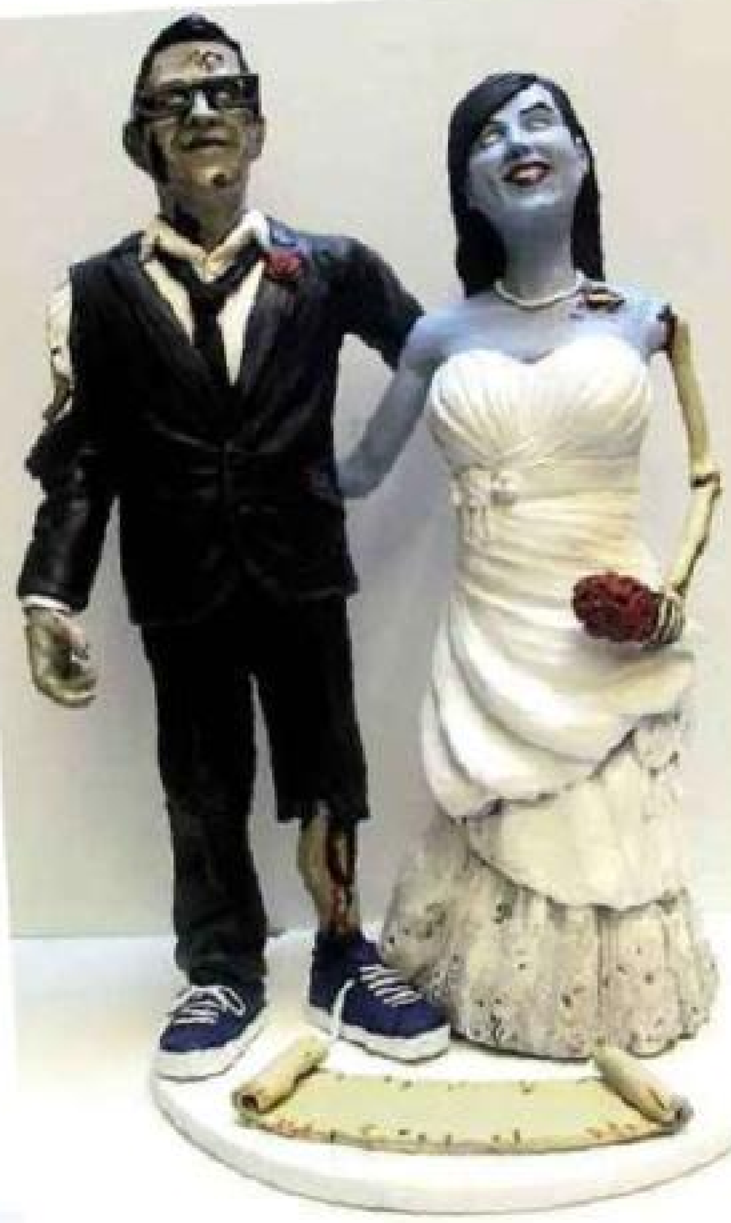
I'm a massive film fan – especially horror and old B-movies – and for around 10 years I've been using my favourite fright flicks as inspiration to create custom sculptures. I'm more than happy to take on commissions, but what I enjoy most is making scary or sci-fi themed sculpts. Luckily, I've found myself getting asked more and more to make zombie-themed wedding cake toppers (examples right and below).

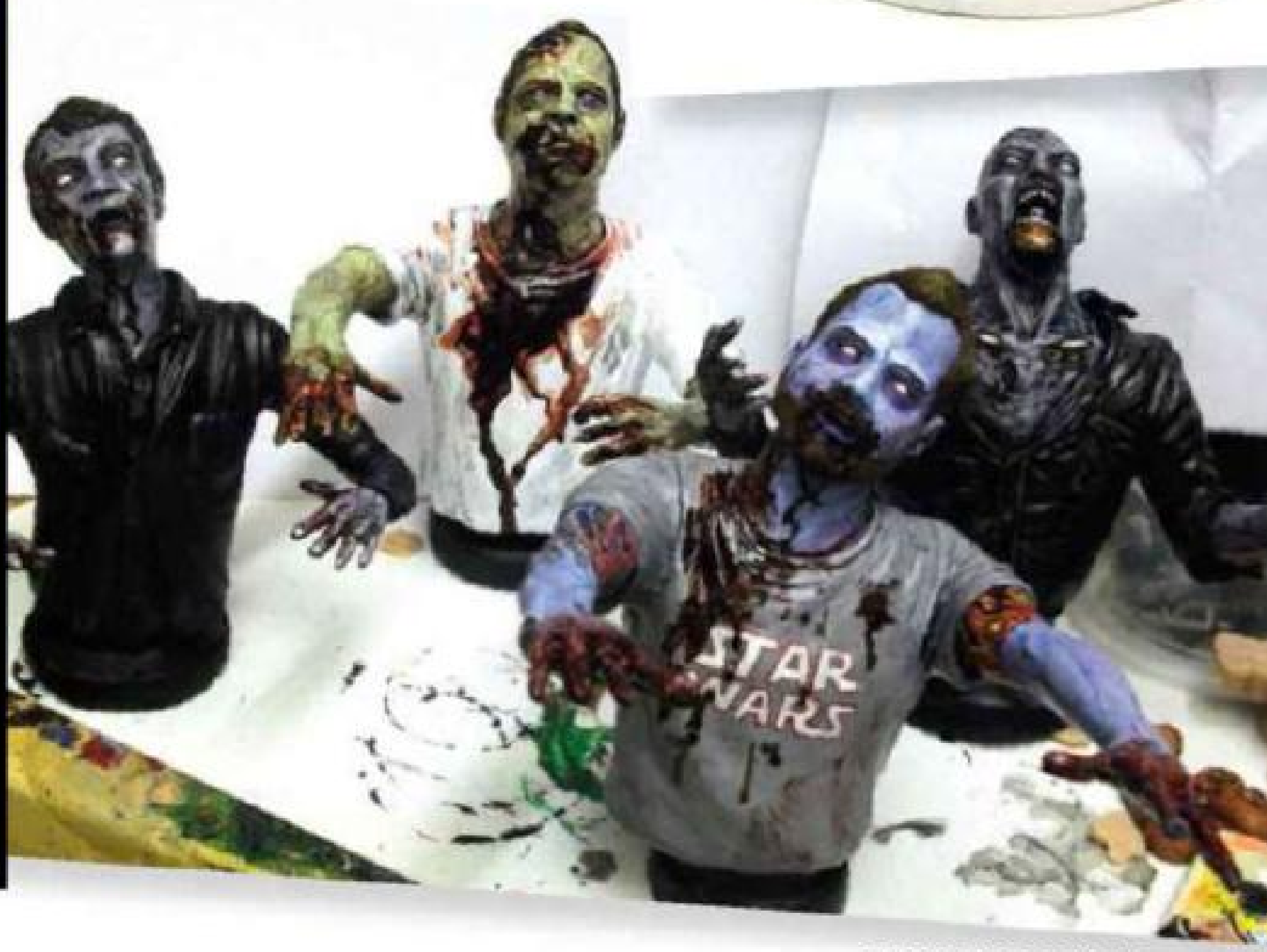
Before the work begins, my subjects send me clear photographs of themselves, along with a brief description of how they want to be depicted. I then post regular updates so that the client can approve the sculpture at key stages, and end up with a piece they'll treasure for years to come. To make the figures I use polymer clay, then I paint them with acrylics.

My sculpts normally take up to three months to complete, and as it's my hobby I usually have several pieces in development at the same time. Wedding cake toppers are great fun to make, and I really enjoy the process and the amazing people I get to meet. You can see more of my work at **Philscustomsculpts.blogspot.co.uk** or find me on Facebook.

Phil Hynes, via Facebook

***Bizarre* says: Our own Mandatron has just got engaged to an android she met while working as a guard drone in the Spice Mines of Kessel, so maybe you could make a topper for her?**





KINKY KITTY

Meet Tango, our eight-month-old bundle of joy! We subscribe to *Bizarre*, and when I open the magazine each month Tango pounces on it! Like me, Tango can't wait to get his teeth into the mag when it arrives. I think Tango liked the cover of February's issue best of all – as you can see, he's eyeing up the lovely Bianca Beauchamp as he sinks his fangs in! Now all he needs are opposable thumbs, then he'll have no need for me.

Leah Edwards, Totnes

POSTMAN PRICK AND HIS BLACK AND WHITE DICK

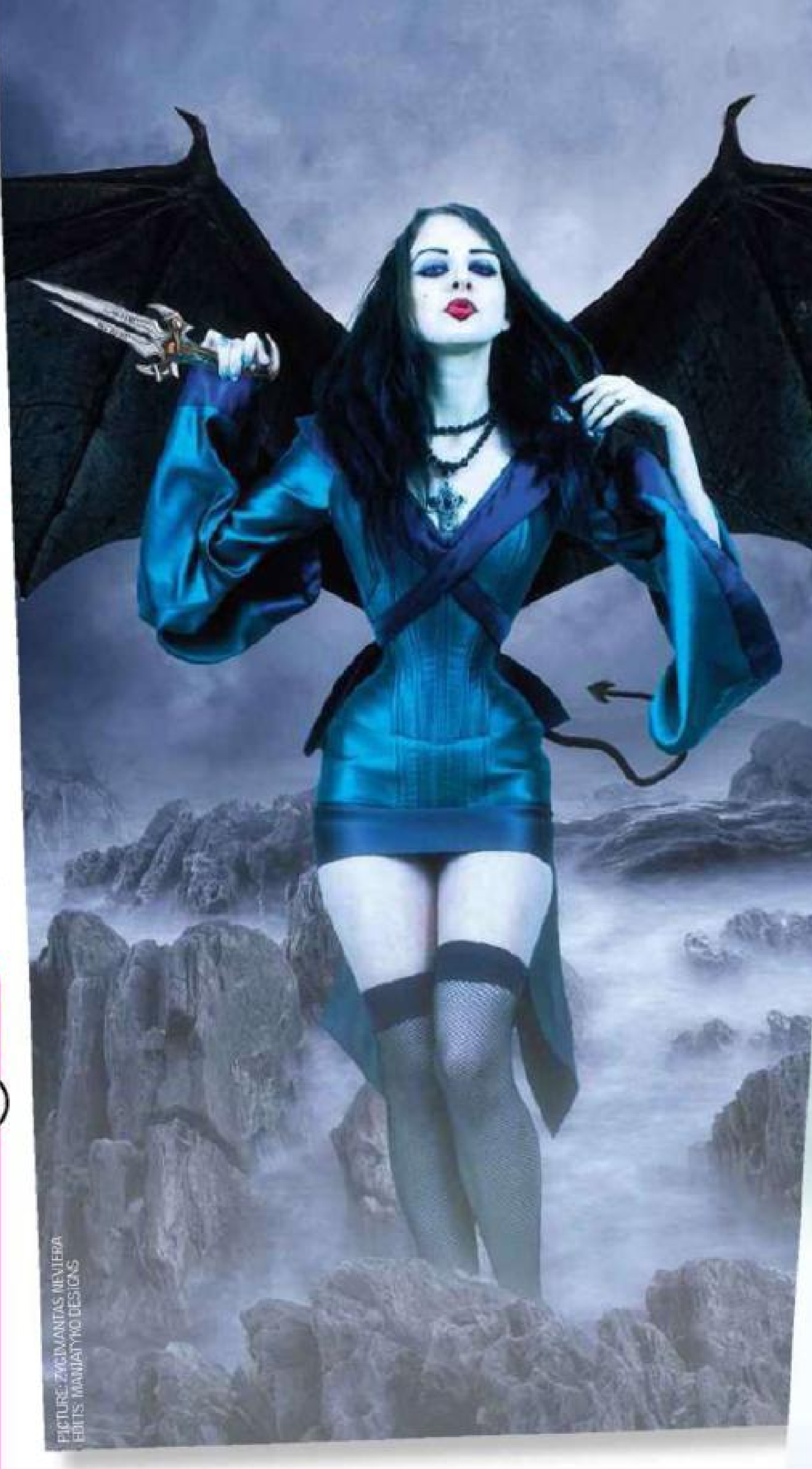
Someone posted me a giant black dildo with an inverted cross on it (above). Initially, I thought the sender wanted to remain anonymous because I couldn't find a note, but it turns out it was a band's promotional item and there was a CD in the package as well. WTF?

Stephen Daultrey (@steveykitten), Bizarre Towers

PETITE PERFECTION

I hope you like these new photos where I'm modelling a corset by Bizarre Design, which makes corsets for the smallest waists in the world. This particular corset (right) makes my waist 47cm, which is pretty cool! I have a naturally small waist, but was fun to feel myself being squeezed into such a tight garment. You can see more of my modelling work in my gallery at **Ultravixens.net/ausriefel** and at my website, **Ausriefel.co.uk**.

Ausrie Fel, via email



PICTURE: ZYGIMANTAS NEVIERA
EDITS: MANIATYKO DESIGNS

FLOODY HELL

I've been one of your most avid and warped readers from day one, but recently my house was flooded. When the water started coming in the first thing that I did was save my entire *Bizarre* collection. I had to frantically run up and down the stairs, clutching my precious mags. Unfortunately, when I was able to clear out what was left of my house, I found a wad of water-soaked paper that was covered in mould and smelt like a hundred elephants with diarrhoea. It turned out that it was *Bizarre 167*. Is there any way one of your readers could send me a copy of this particular issue? My *Bizarre* collection is the only thing that survived the flood, and I'd like to make it complete again. Also, I'd like to get hold of *Bizarre 167* to terrify the other guests in my temporary accommodation!

ThirtySix, via Facebook

WANTED: BACK ISSUE STASH

Does anyone have old issues lying around that they don't want or need any more? I love the magazine! You can tweet me **@jmellerke** or email me directly at **Dragondadjam@gmail.com**. Thank you in advance!

Jonathan Mellerke, via Twitter

SKINNY LOVE

I love *Bizarre* magazine, but I can't justify the price for what is now the skinniest magazine known to man. NAHB *sad face*

Hairyman Badger Matraves, via Facebook

***Bizarre* cover star Masuimi Max says:**

Bizarre was the first magazine to feature us weirdos back in the day. When I started modelling, there were only a handful of publications that regarded someone with a tattoo or other body mod as beautiful or interesting, instead of condemning them. But today _Bizarre_ faces a huge challenge as we can all have instant gratification via the internet. _Bizarre_ continues to showcase the wild and weird stuff that we all love, even if there has been a change in format. But we mustn't let this unique magazine fail, and the way to do this is to support them and spread the word. We can all do our bit to help the magazine grow and stay alive. With our support, _Bizarre_ will get thicker again. With our love, it will grow. The new pull-out posters are cool – you can't hang a photo from the internet on your wall!

WHERE DO YOU READ YOURS?

Most of you enjoy perusing *Bizarre* on the crapper, just like King Karim Jamal (right), but we want to see you reading the world's greatest rag on the highest peaks, in the lowest valleys... and in the weirdest places!

"PUT YER BACK INTO IT, LAD!"

Here's Matt Mannerings from Kent doing his "best King Arthur impression while perusing *Bizarre 209*" at Disneyland Paris. We hope Lusy Logan's sexy cover photos brought some life and colour to a dark and dreary day in the place Team Bizarre likes to call hell on earth!

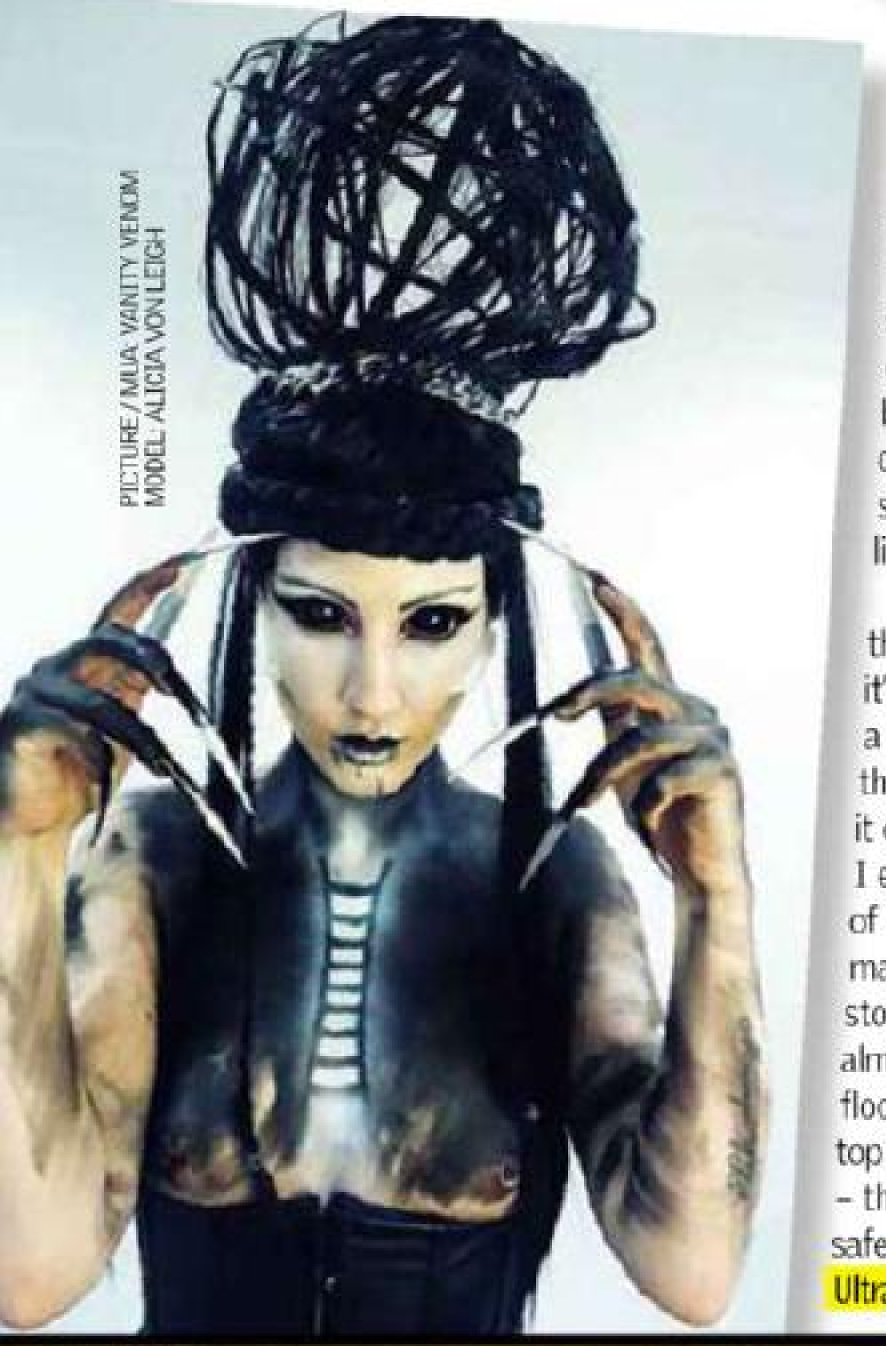
FACEACHE

This letter is part picture submission and part rant!

I recently uploaded some photos of my make-up inspired by HR Giger on Facebook.com/vanityvenom (example below), but they were almost immediately reported and taken down! It makes me wonder about the line between art and 'offensive' nudity. I mean, would someone have reported a painting showing boobs? I see nothing wrong with the images I posted, and you wouldn't be able to tell the model's tits are out if it wasn't for that cheeky nipple ring!

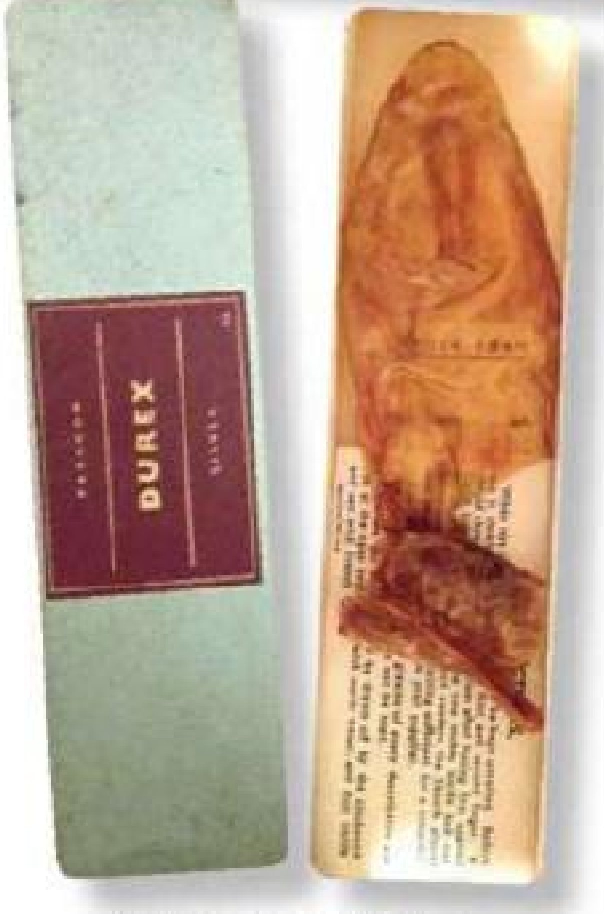
I was utterly pissed off that someone would be sad enough to report a photo like this when I see the grimmest shit on Facebook every day! That site needs to sort their shit, because I'm sick of seeing disgusting photos of dead babies and beaten up animals while some painted-up tits get censored. Rant over.

Emily Clayton, via email



PICTURE / MUA: VANITY VENOM
MODEL: ALICIA VON LEIGH

For Planned Families
Duracreme
Spermicidal Cream
Duracreme

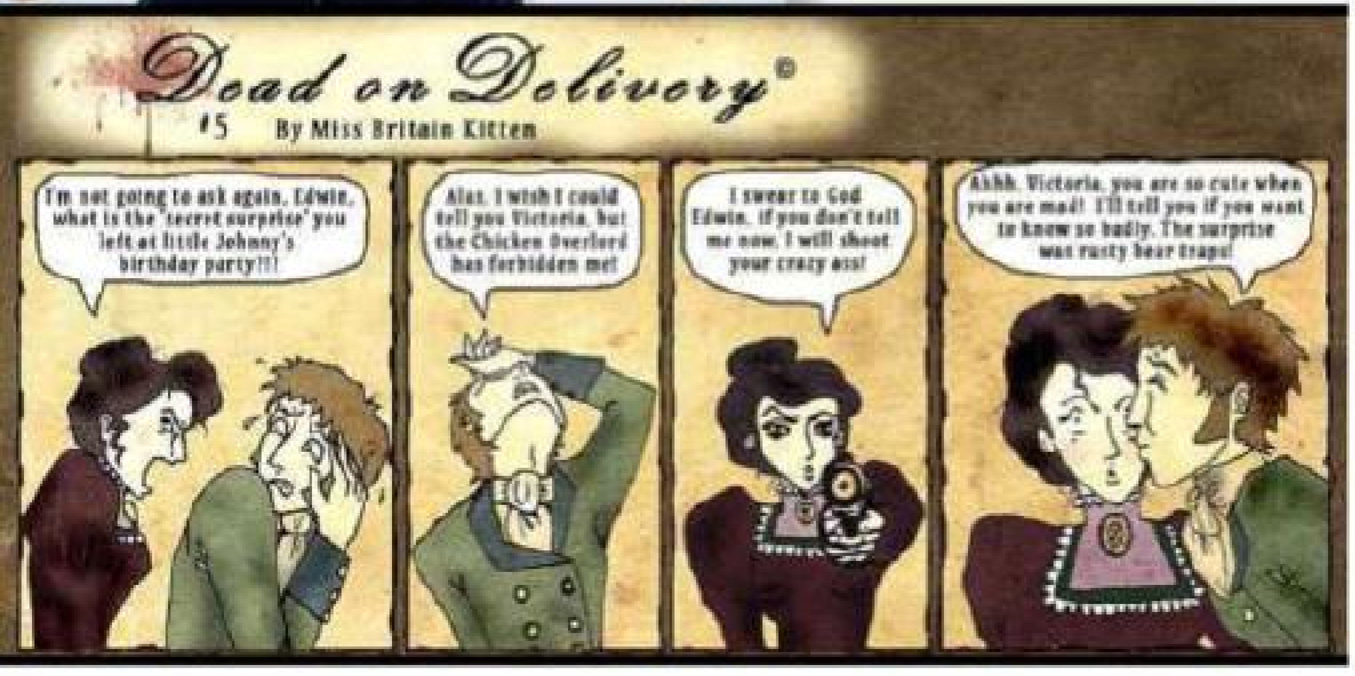


LUBRI-CAN'T

I found a gross 'reusable' condom under the floorboards of my 1860s cottage (above)! I wanted to set up a pole for dancing in my new home, so I asked my builder to check out where the best place would be to put it. He noticed that one of the floorboards wasn't screwed down, and when he lifted it and found this. Yuk!

I think this condom is from the 1950s or 60s – either way, it's been lurking down there for a long time! I'm beginning to think I might keep it and pass it onto the new owners when I eventually sell the house; it's part of its history now! I managed to make some money selling the story to a weekly mag, so it's almost like finding cash under the floorboards! It's currently on the top shelf of my pantry of all places – that's the only place to keep it safe from my nosey toddler, Brody!

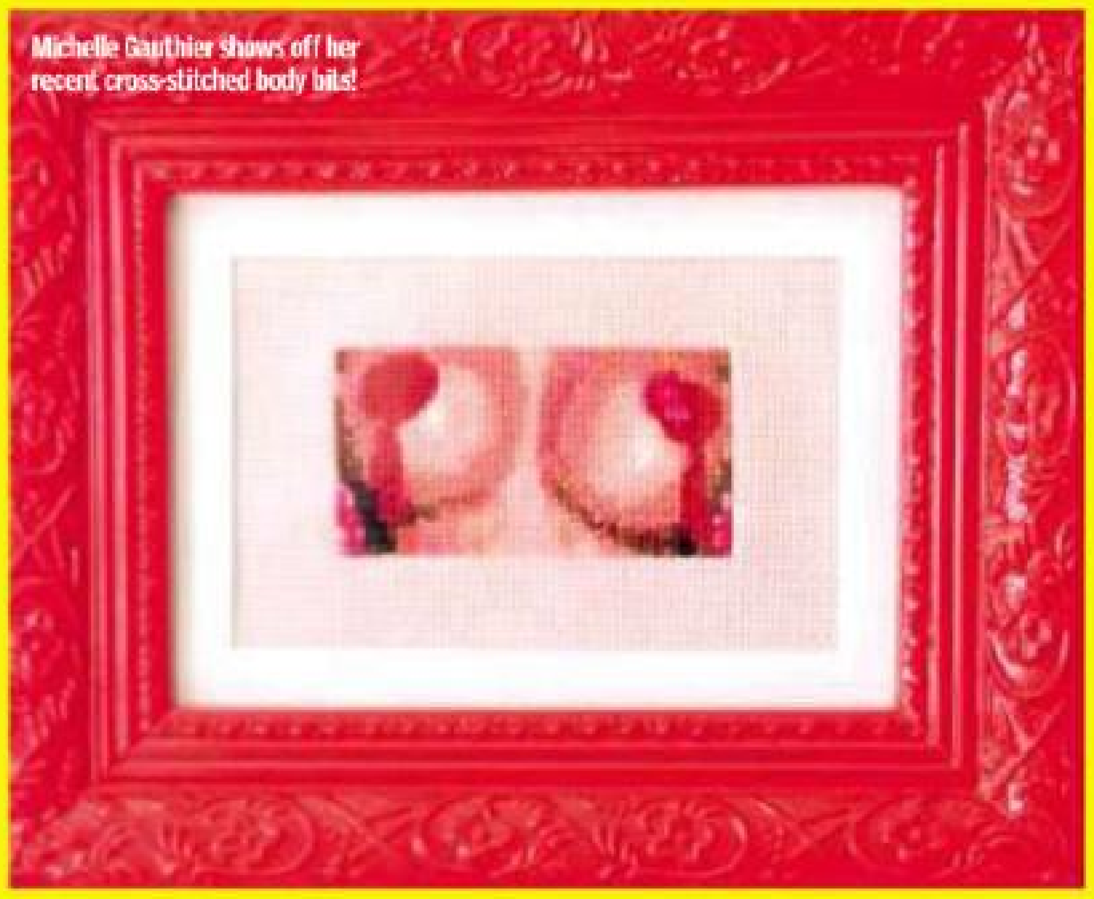
Ultra Vixen Steffi Rox, via email



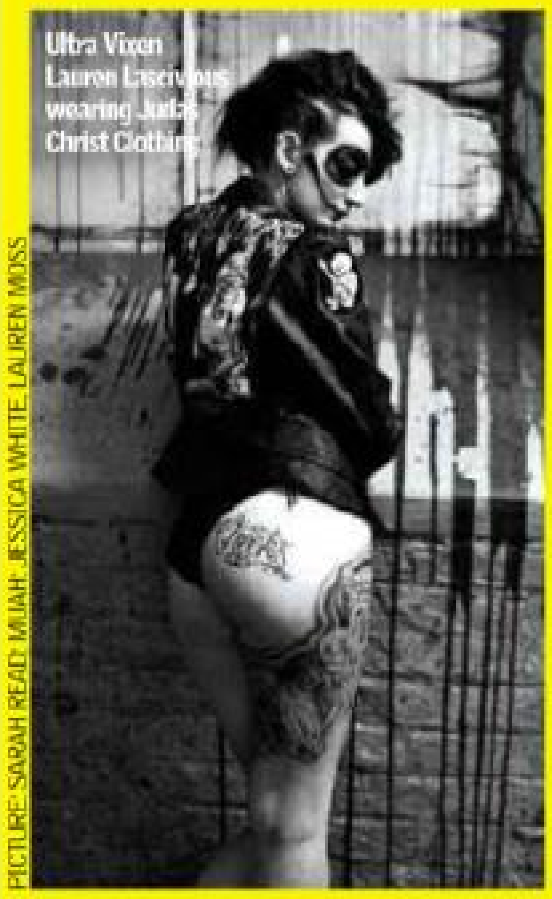
Dead on Delivery©
#5 By Miss Britain Kitten
I'm not going to ask again, Edwin, what is the 'secret surprise' you left at little Johnny's birthday party!!!
Alas, I wish I could tell you Victoria, but the Chicken Overlord has forbidden me!
I swear to God Edwin, if you don't tell me now, I will shoot your crazy ass!
Ahhh. Victoria, you are so cute when you are mad! I'll tell you if you want to know so badly. The surprise was rusty bear traps!

PHOTO ASSAULT

You lot showing off on our community page... Visit us at Your-bizarre.tumblr.com

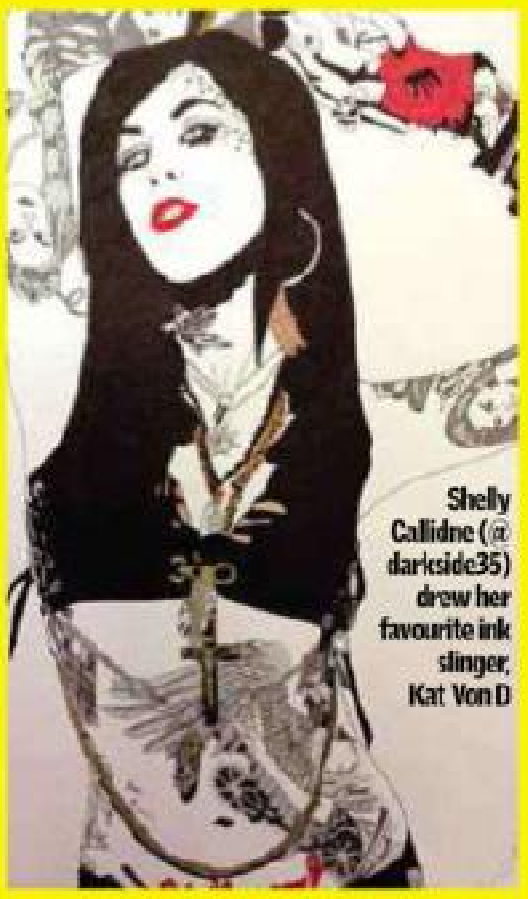


Michelle Gauthier shows off her recent cross-stitched body bits!

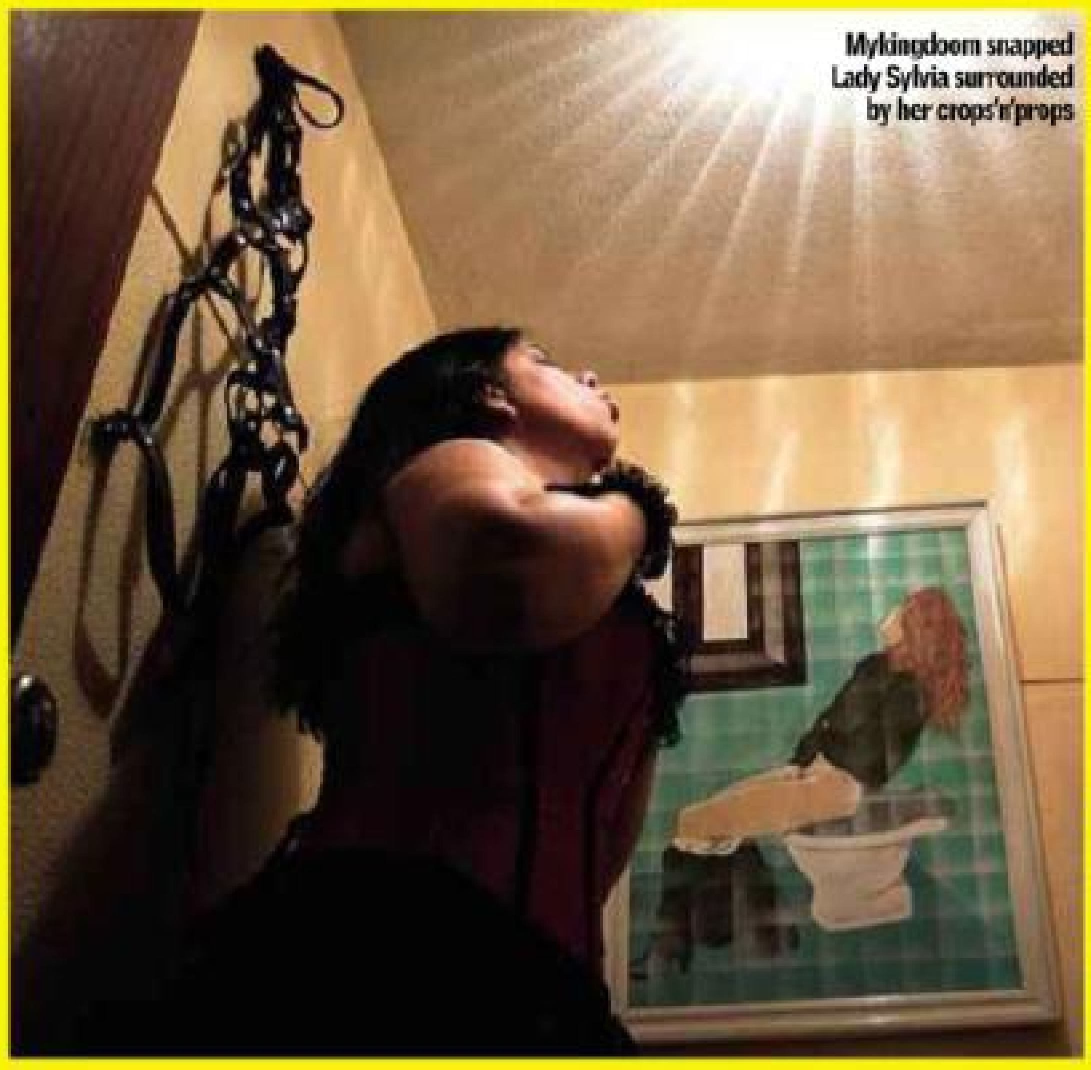


Ultra Vixen Lauren Lascivious wearing Judas Christ Clothing

PICTURE: SARAH READ; MUAH: JESSICA WHITE; LAUREN MOSS



Shelly Callidne (@darkside35) drew her favourite ink slinger, Kat Von D



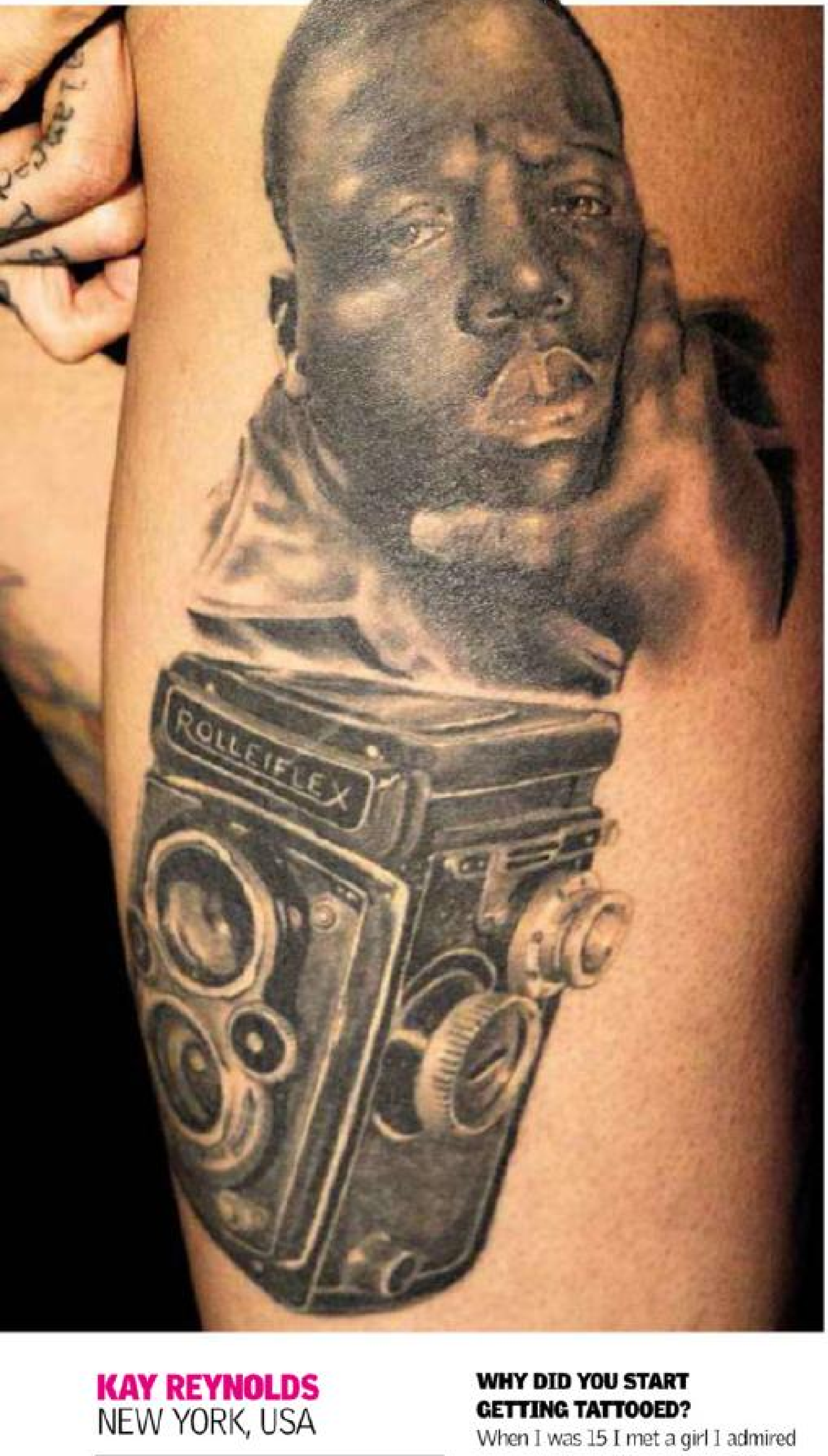
Mykingdoom snapped Lady Sylvia surrounded by her crops'n'props

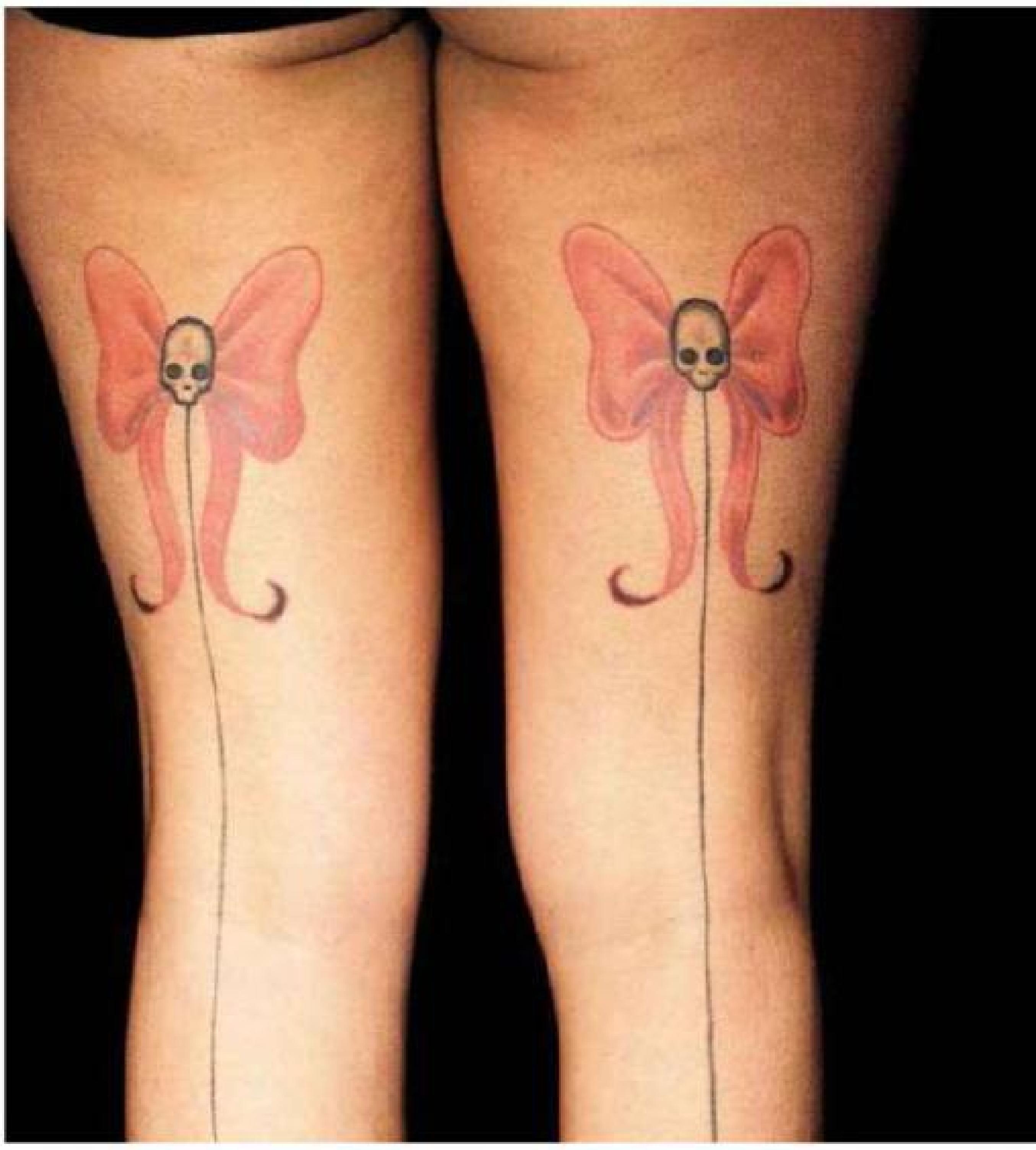
PICTURE: DANIELA ALVES

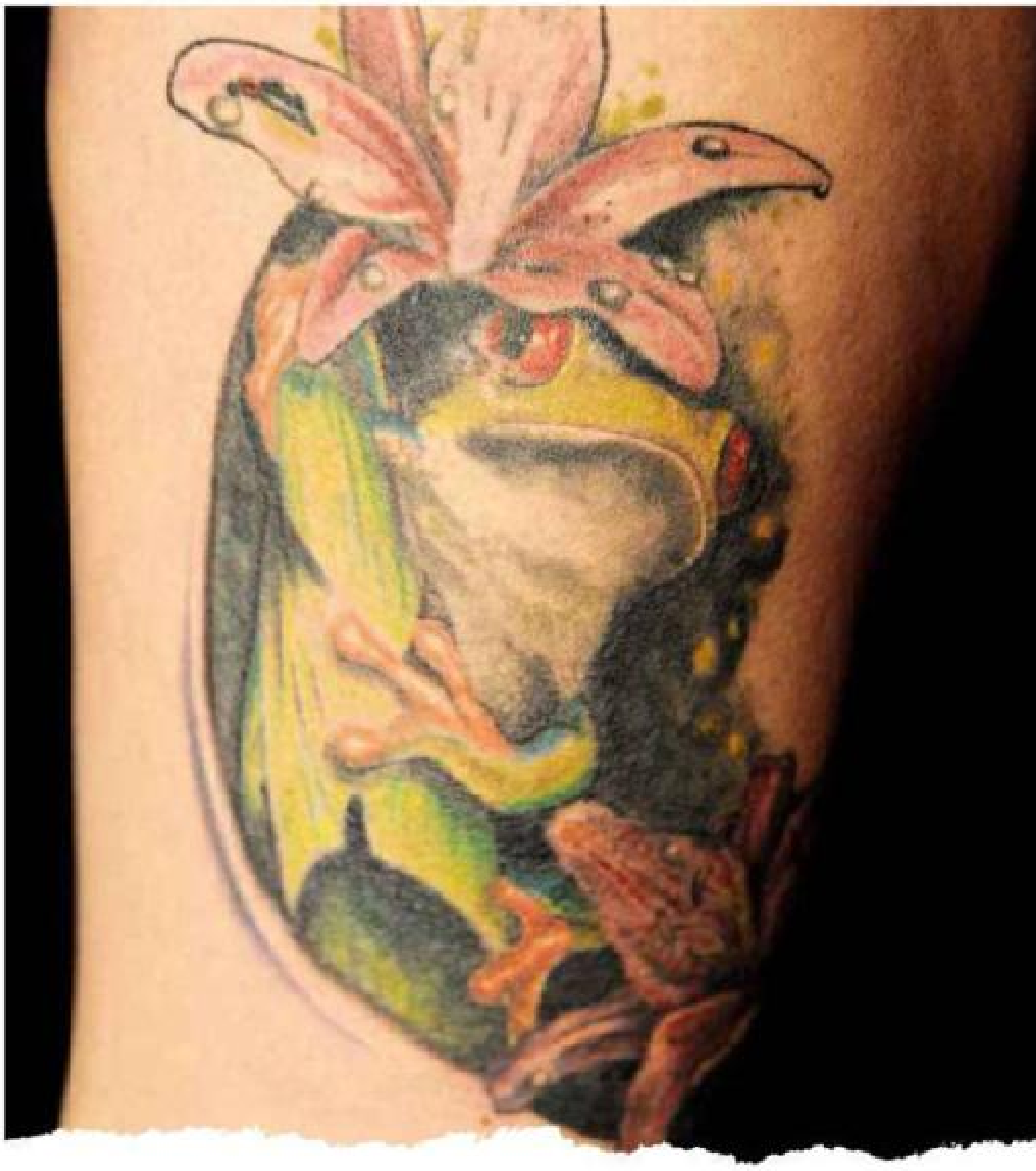
YOUR Body Art

READER TATTS AND BODY MODS

PICTURES **ESTER SEGARRA**







KAY REYNOLDS
NEW YORK, USA

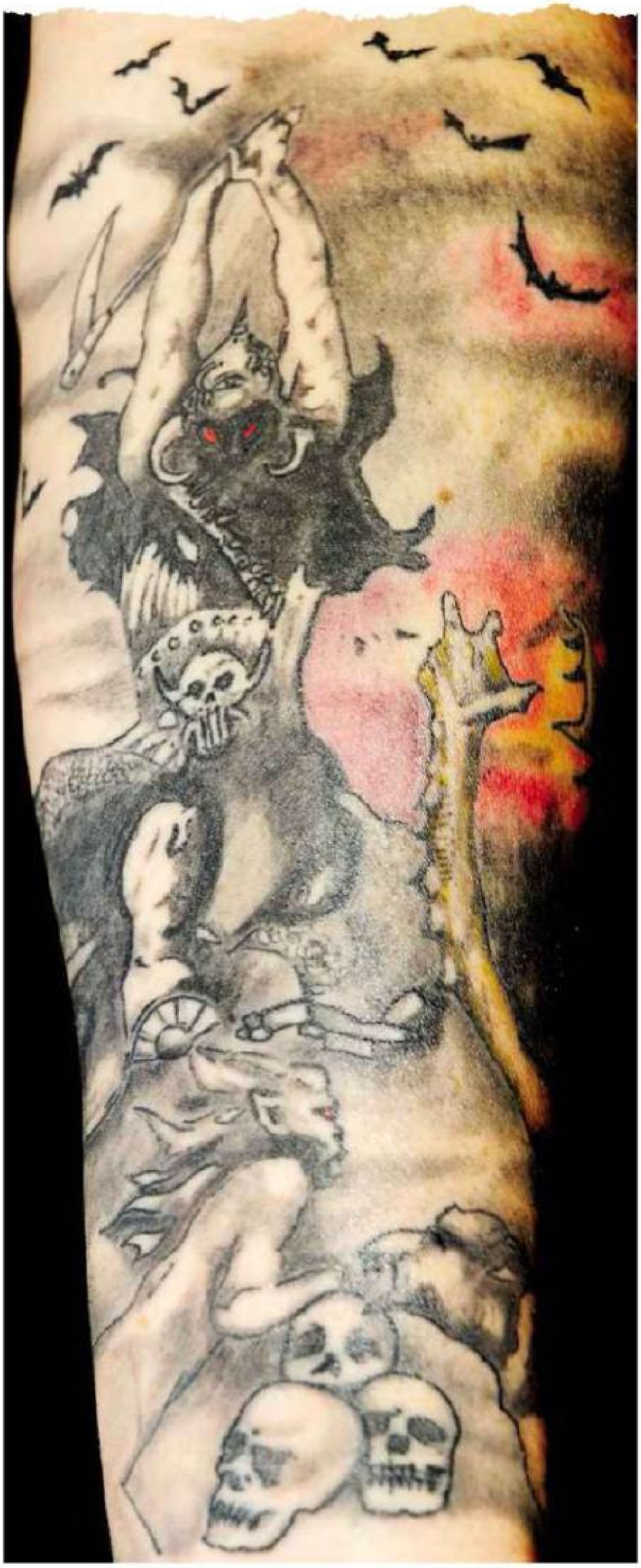
ARTISTS Paul Reynolds at Studio 28 Tattoos, New York (back of legs); Louie Estrada at Village Moon, New York.

WHAT ARE THEY? I have a mixture of tattoos in different styles by my husband, Paul, including portraits and photorealistic work. I also have stocking seams running down the backs of my legs.

WHY DID YOU START GETTING TATTOOED?
When I was 15 I met a girl I admired who said that tattoos would suit me. So I got a few, then a few more, then I married a tattoo artist! I consider my body art to be part of a lifestyle choice, rather than an addiction.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?
I don't really notice, but my husband says people stare at me all the time.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
I'm having a tattoo removed from my back where I let a friend practice on me.



DAN CURRALL
WIMBLEDON

ARTIST Kit Panton at Altered Image, London.

WHAT IS IT? A dark fantasy image on my forearm.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
I like the art of Frank Frazetta, and my designs are inspired by his work and heavy metal bands, with some tribal influences thrown in for good measure.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?
I haven't had much of a reaction so far, to be honest! My wife is fine with my tattoos because she has her own body art. I'd wanted to get tattooed for ages, but I didn't commit to a design for a long time. I had some other bits and pieces inked before I got this design.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
I'm hoping to get my sleeve completed by Allan Graves at Haunted Tattoos in Holloway, London. Then I'll probably move on to my other arm. I've definitely caught the tattoo bug!

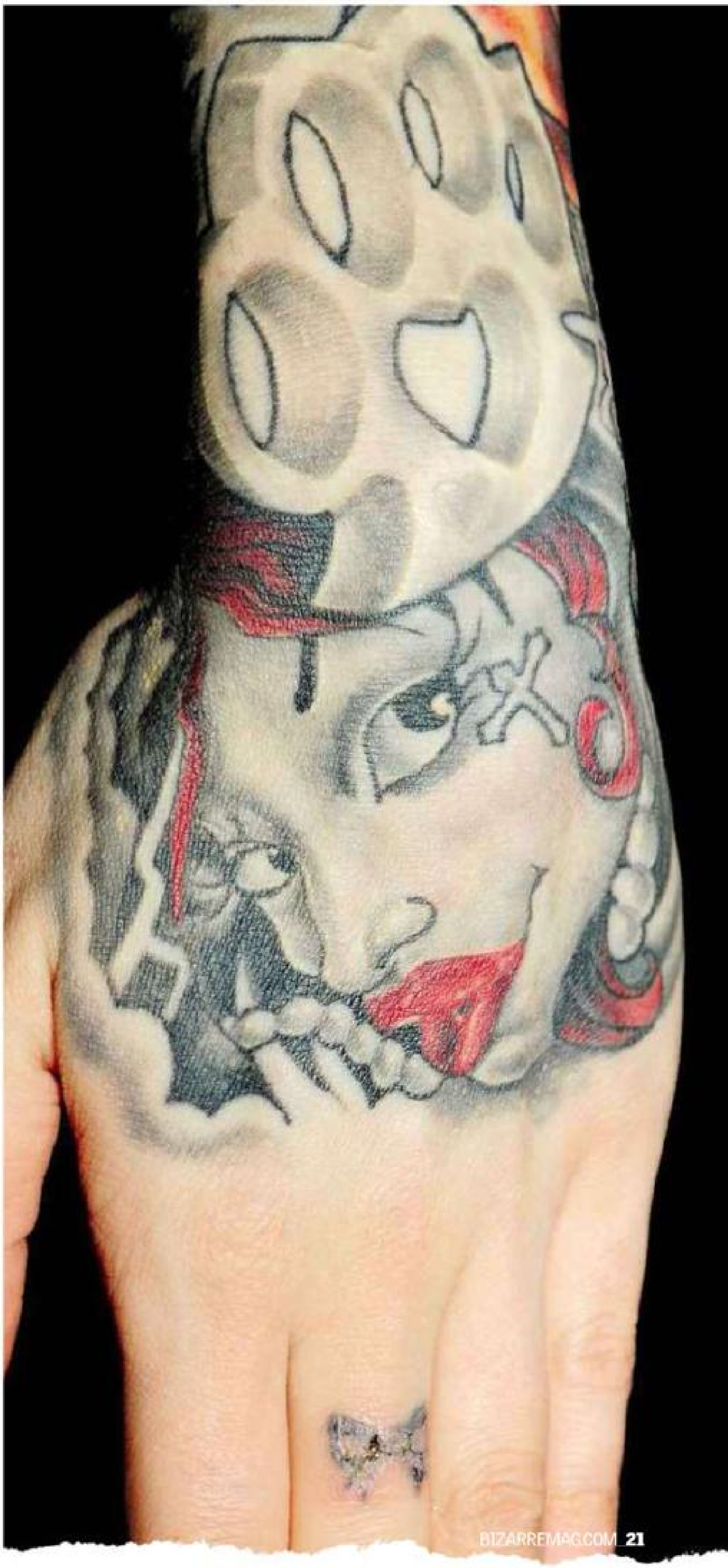
DENISE HOPWOOD
ESSEX

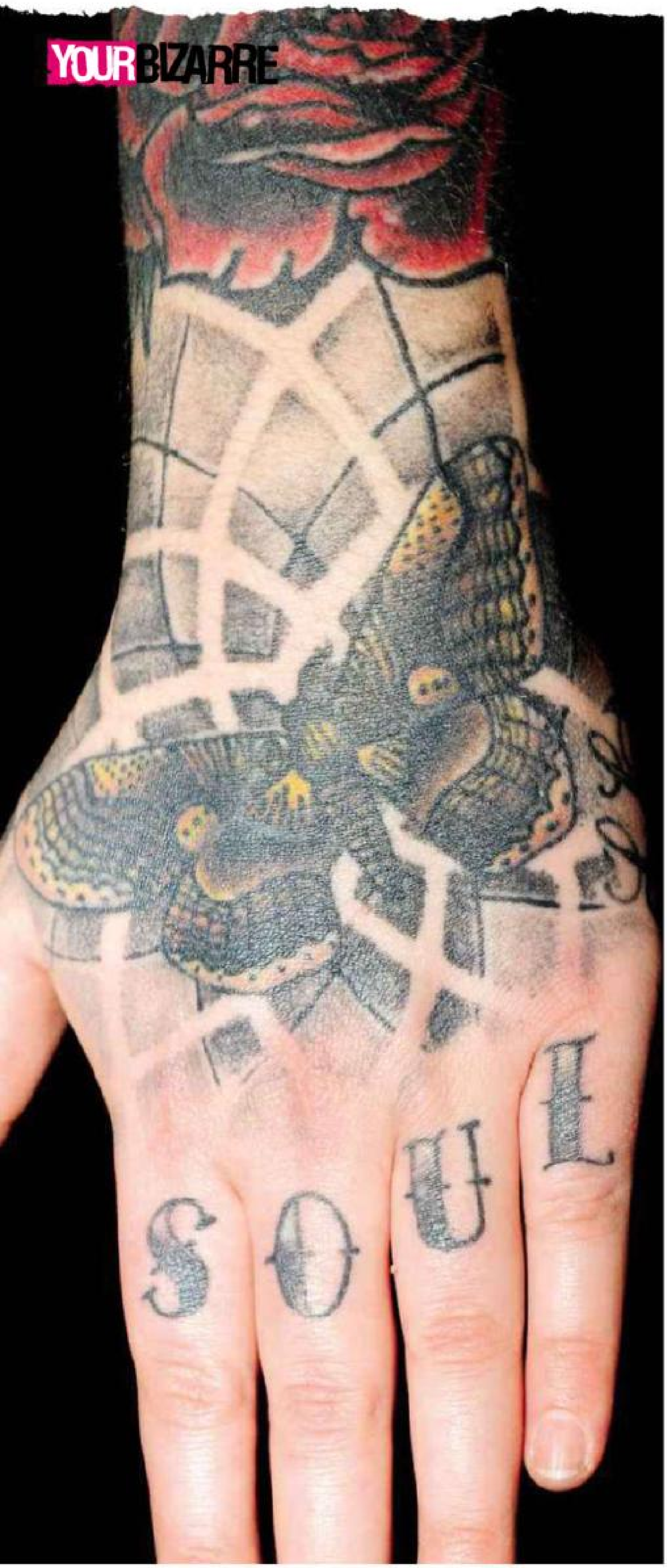
ARTIST Thomas Pring at Bloodline Tattoo Studio, Thurrock.

WHAT IS IT? A stylised lady's face on my left hand.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
I'm a big fan of Joe Capobianco's work, so I spoke with my artist about doing an interpretation of his cartoony style. I love ladies! They're a big influence in my life, and so most of my tattoos are based on women.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?
Having a tattoo on my hand is a bold statement, but it's OK as I'm now part of the tattoo industry as an apprentice. One day I'll be famous! I have to keep my mum in mind, though – she's cool, but she's not keen on tattooed faces or hands, especially on women.





MARTIN CRAIG
TORQUAY

ARTIST
Adam Harris at New Tribe Tattoo, Brixham.

WHAT IS IT?
A moth design on my left hand.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
I work on reception at New Tribe Tattoo and my boss, Adam, tattooed the moth on my hand.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?
Most people like the moth – it always gets a positive response.

WHAT OTHER INK DO YOU HAVE?
I also have a colourful Japanese sleeve.

SASHA HAYKLAN
SOMERSET

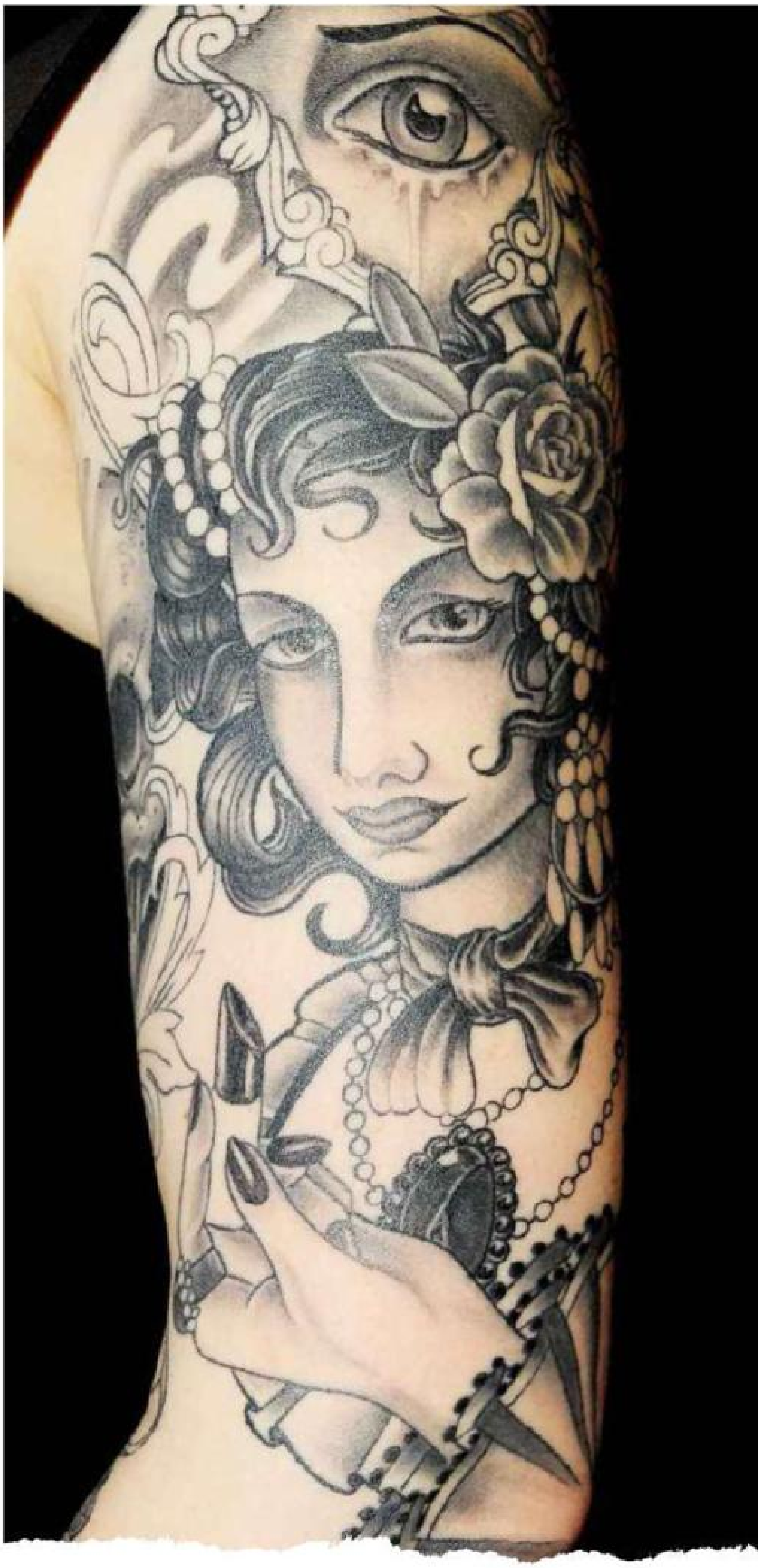
ARTIST Steve Black at All Of One, Weston super Mare.

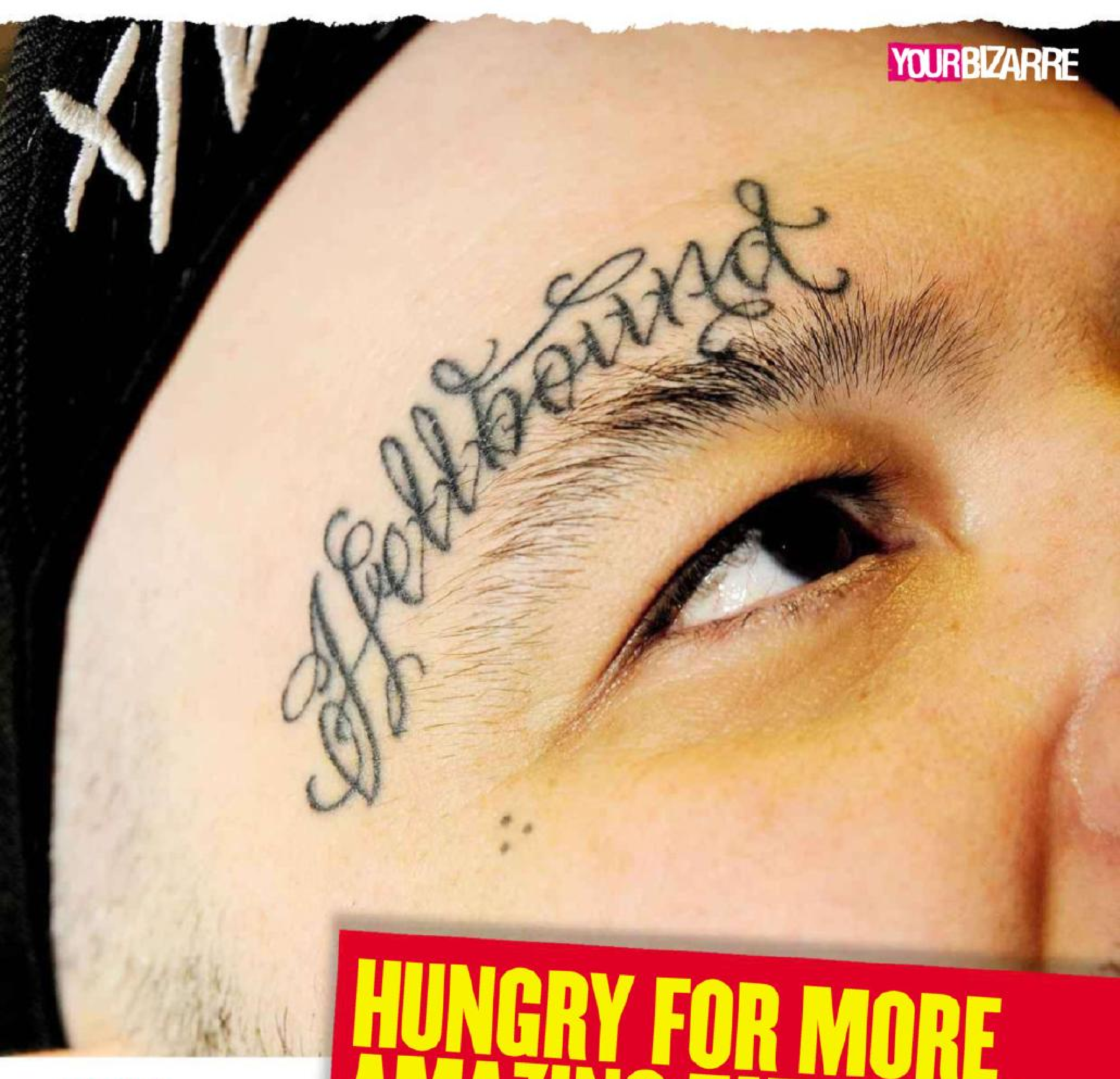
WHAT IS IT?
A black and grey sleeve devoted to my mum.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
I have a portrait of a woman putting on lipstick because my mum is a make-up artist, and in the mirror behind her there's a skull which represents how I've nearly lost her on several occasions. I also have a heart with hat pins stuck in it in to represent her pacemaker, and scissors to symbolise her craftiness.

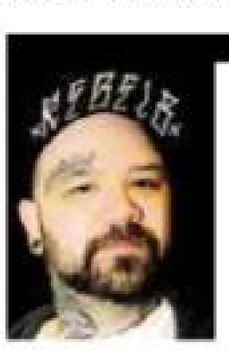
WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?
My mum's an artist and loves my tattoos; she's supportive and often suggests new ideas. The rest of my family accept my tattoos as they're a part of me, whether they like it or not.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
I need to get fill the gaps in this sleeve! I haven't got any plans for my other sleeve yet, but as it's a blank canvas I'm sure I'll get something soon.





MIKE HILL
NOTTINGHAM



ARTIST
Justin Burnout at Ghost House Collective, Derby.

WHAT IS IT?
Script on my eyebrow.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
I like the word 'Hellbound' – if hell exists, I'm probably going there! The shape of the word fits well across the space, too.

TELL US A BIT MORE ABOUT IT...
I had to wait about a year before getting this tattoo. When I first approached Justin he'd never done face script on a non-tattooist before, so it was a big deal for him. Justin's script work is amazing – there's no one else I'd trust to do it!

HUNGRY FOR MORE AMAZING TATTOOS?

THEN CHECK OUT *BIZARRE*'S NEW BOOKS ***TATTOO STYLE*** AND ***THE WORLD'S MOST INCREDIBLE TATTOOS: VOL 5***, ON SALE NOW!

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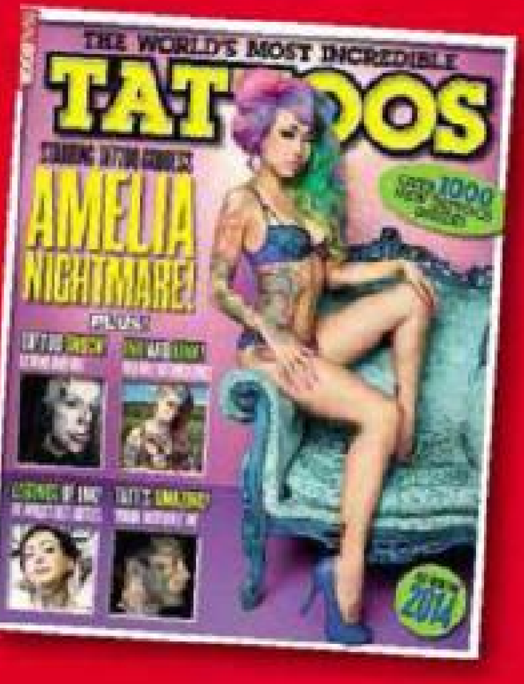
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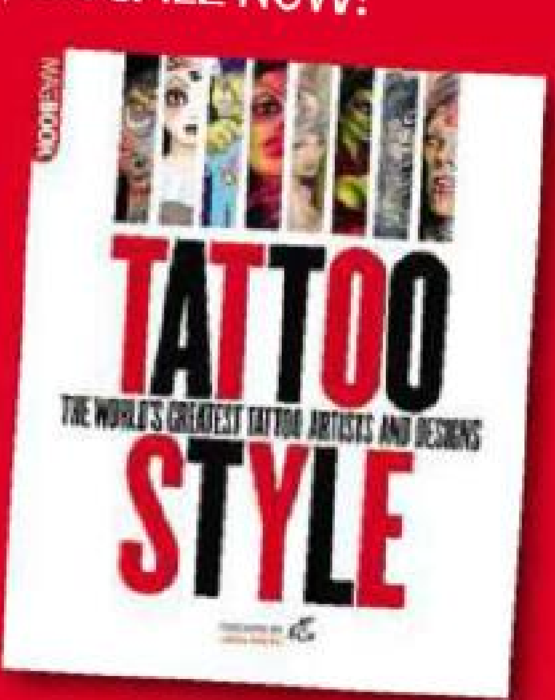

TATTOO STYLE
THE WORLD'S GREATEST TATTOO ARTISTS AND DESIGNS

YOU TAPPU!

The hottest new ink submitted via the 69p iPhone app, *Tappu! Tattoo Studio Volume 1*

WHAT IS TAPPU?

Tappu! Tattoo Studio Volume 1 is a new iPhone app that showcases the world's most stunning body art.

Featuring interviews with world-class ink-slingers such as Angelique Houtkamp, Tin-Tin and Jesse Smith, detailed histories of six of the world's most popular ink styles, and galleries that feature many *Bizarre* readers snapped at British conventions, *Tappu!* is the best tattoo app on the market. And it's only 69p.

The app also features a built-in camera option which allows users to send photos of their ink directly to the *Tappu!* team. We'll be showcasing our favourite submissions in *Bizarre* each month and awarding a brilliant prize to our favourite ink, so there's never been a better time to get your tatts out.

What are you waiting for? Search the Apple App Store, download *Tappu! Tattoo Studio Volume 1* and join the party!

Join the
TAPPU!
revolution at Tappu.co.uk

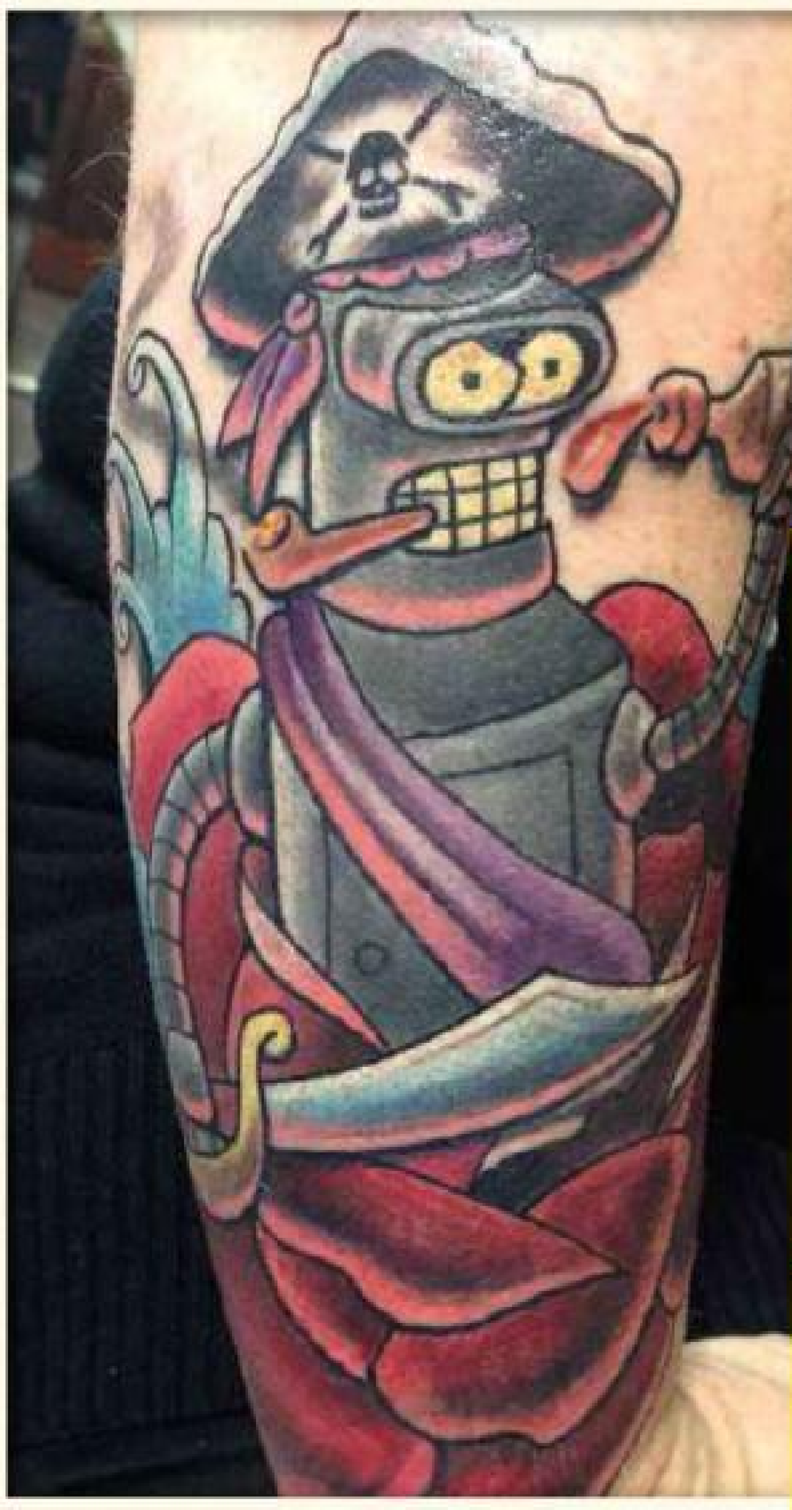
TOP TIPS!

If you're submitting ink via *Tappu!*, here are some pointers for creating prize-winning pics...

- **Take your pictures using the highest quality photo setting. If your picture is nice and sharp, it's more likely to feature in the magazine.**
- **Spend time getting the lighting as good as possible to capture the true beauty of your tattoo. Dark and grotty images will be rejected!**
- **Hold your iPhone steady and try to make the final image as sharp as you can.**
- **Try to avoid strong sunlight and nasty backgrounds. Clean and clear pics are more likely to be winners**

***Bizarre* readers can get 10 per cent off any purchase from Bitemarkapparel.com with promo code BM3009013**

BITE MARK APPAREL



INK OF THE MONTH

YOUR PRIZE!

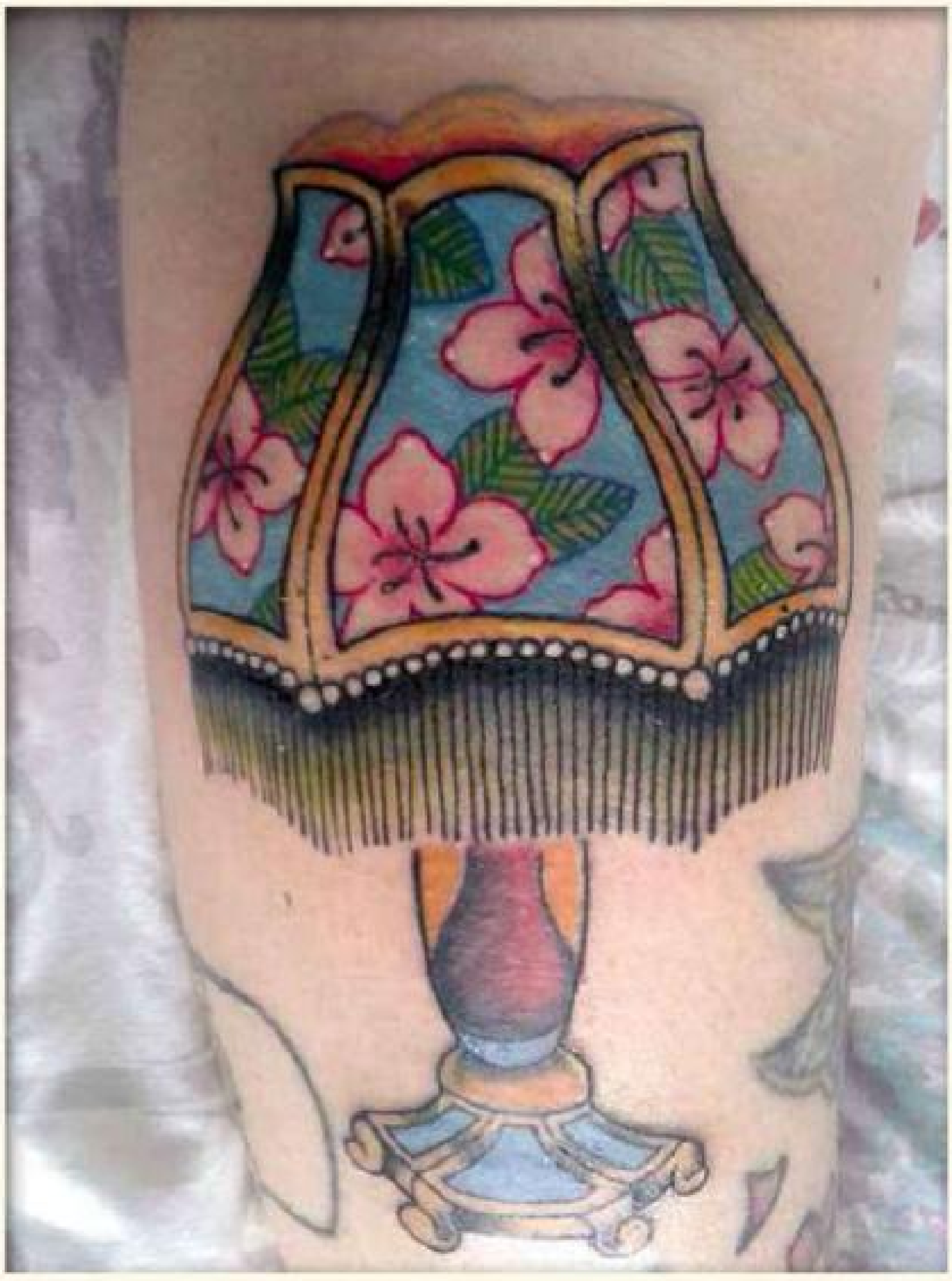
Ink Of The Month winners will each receive a sweet new T-shirt, courtesy of our mates at Bitemark Apparel. See Bitemark's full range of T-shirts at Bitemarkapparel.com

WINNERS WILL BE OFFERED A CHOICE FROM SIX DIFFERENT DESIGNS IN A VARIETY OF COLOURS AND SIZES, INCLUDING THE DESIGN SHOWN HERE

CLAIRE CORE, SUFFOLK

ARTIST Samuel Rivers at Curiosities Tattoo Studio, Ipswich.

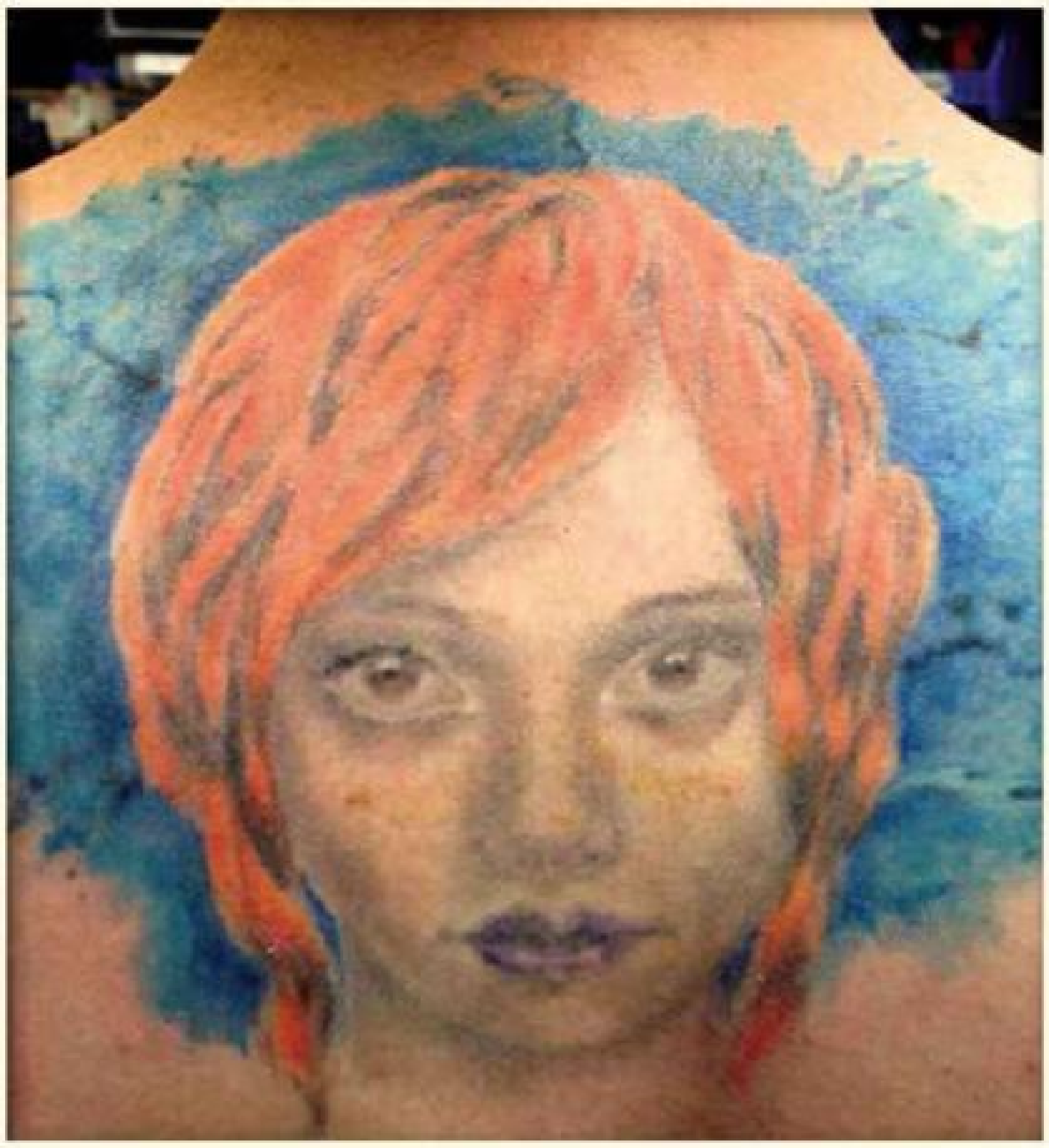
CLAIRE SAYS My design is Bender from *Futurama* dressed as a pirate, with a logo for the punk band Teenage Bottlerocket on his hat. I'd describe the style of this tattoo as 'modern traditional'; a traditional style with a modern twist. There isn't any deep meaning behind my tattoos – I chose this design because Bender is cool, pirates are cool, and Teenage Bottlerocket are cool! This tattoo reminds me of a boat trip I took last summer with a bunch of my friends dressed as pirates.



MICHALA VANO, ESSEX

ARTIST Zoe Clark at Good Ship 13 Tattoos, Hadleigh.

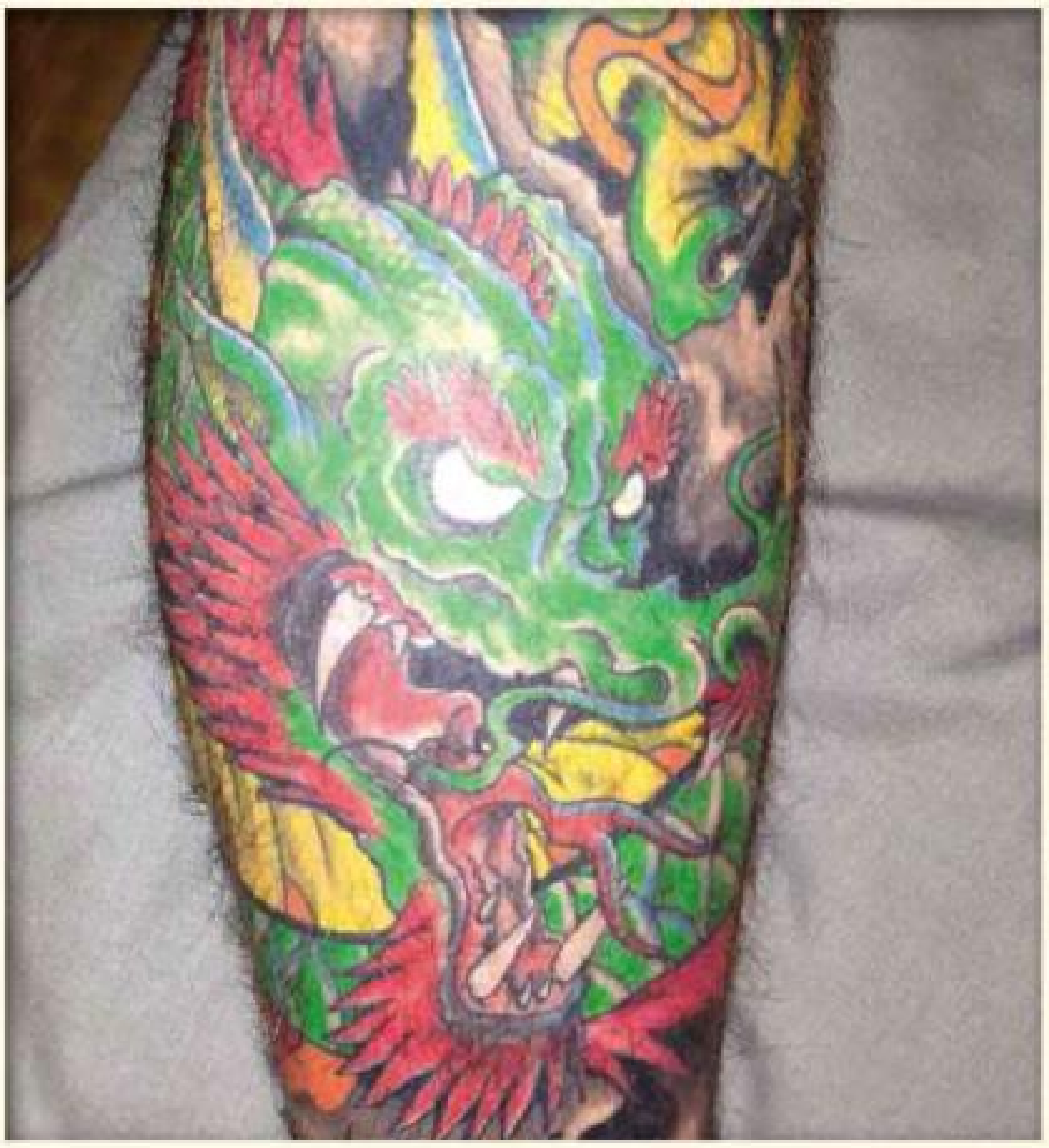
MICHALA SAYS My design is an ornate lamp, and it was drawn for me by my friend, Zoe. I like to have designs that are unique and unlikely to be seen anywhere else. My family have washed their hands of me as far as tattoos are concerned – they know I won't be happy until I've run out of space! I like to have tattoos because with every one that I get, I feel more complete. I won't stop getting tattooed until I'm completely covered!



JAMES BRADY, WIMBLEDON

ARTIST Lauren and Nadz at Steel Point Tattoos, Croydon.

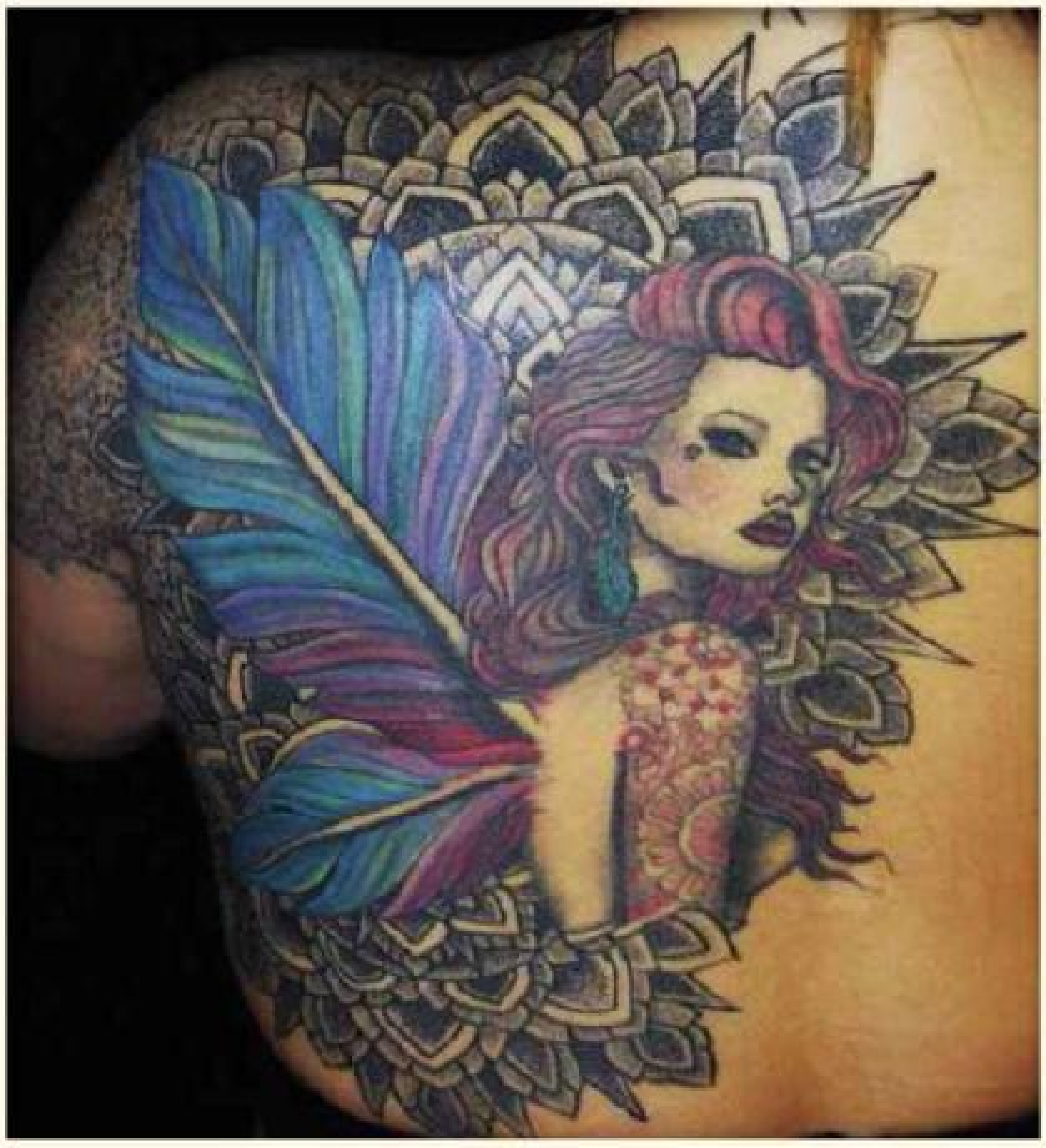
JAMES SAYS I designed this portrait on my back with Lauren from Steel Point Tattoos. I've had nothing but good responses to this piece – which is more than I can say for some of my other designs, which leave people unsure what to say! Although I love to decorate my body, at the moment I've run out of ideas for future tattoos, so I'm waiting for inspiration to hit.



GLENN COPSEY, ESSEX

ARTIST Grant Mitchell at Chameleons Tattoos, Dagenham.

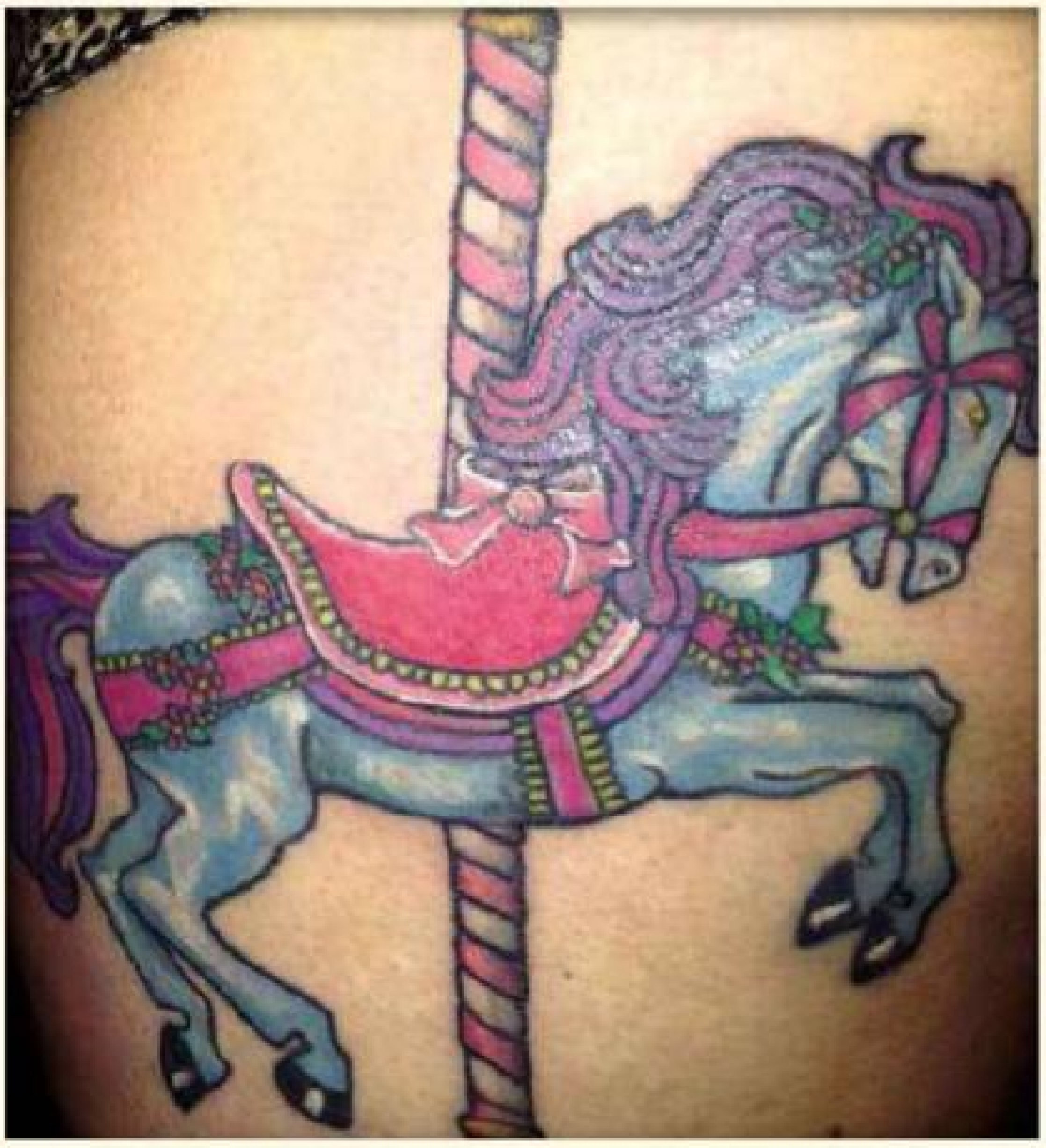
GLENN SAYS This dragon design is my sixth tattoo, and is part of a half-sleeve on my lower right leg. I've always admired tattoos, and I'd wanted one for as long as I can remember. I think the artistry involved in body art is amazing, and I like the fact that it's an extreme way of expressing yourself. I'm also drawn to oriental designs, particularly for their colours, meaning and imagery.



STEPHANIE ANJOS, BRIGHTON

ARTIST Saskia Chowles at Inka Tattoos, Brighton.

STEPHANIE SAYS This is my custom sexy mandala fairy with geometric dot work. The fairy is feminine but not girly; a force of nature with leafy wings. I created the design a few years ago because I loved fairies as a kid, and I also adore the beautiful, enchanted and magical side of life. I found Saskia's work online and fell in love with it, especially her patterned dot work, mandalas and paisley designs. I went to her with my idea and she turned it into a masterpiece!



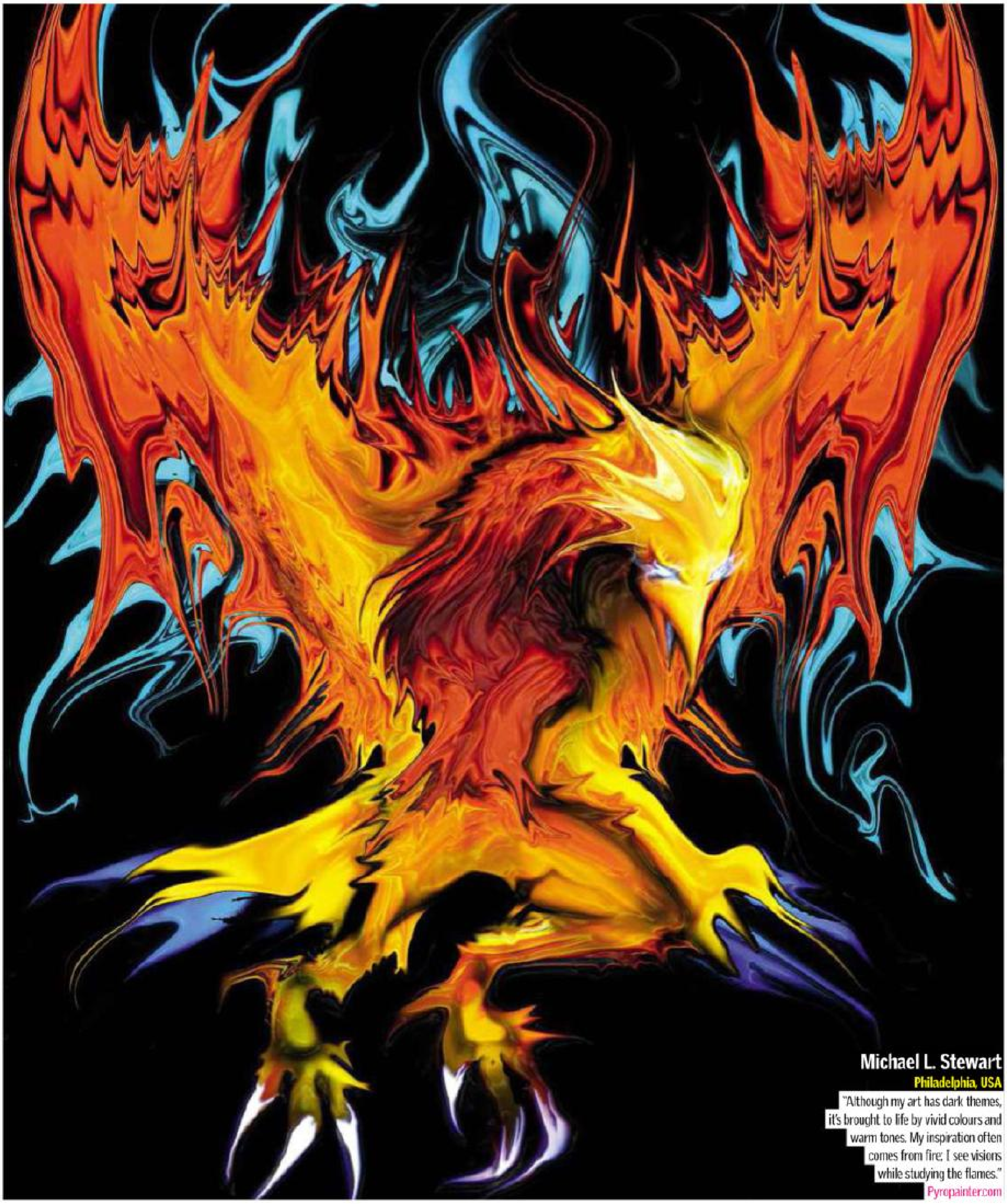
TIFFANY EDWARDS, SOUTH WALES

ARTIST Ian 'Griff' Griffiths, Griff's Pins'n'Ink, Abersychan.

TIFFANY SAYS I love big, bold and colourful tattoos, and as I've got older my tattoo designs have become larger. I love the fact that tattoos make your body individual, and how you really stand out from the crowd when you've got a good piece. I recently started work on my sixth tattoo on my thigh, which I can't wait to have finished. My mother hates tattoos; she doesn't talk to me for days when I get a new one... but at least that gives me some quiet time!

YOUR DOODLES & MASTERPIECES

Readers' Art

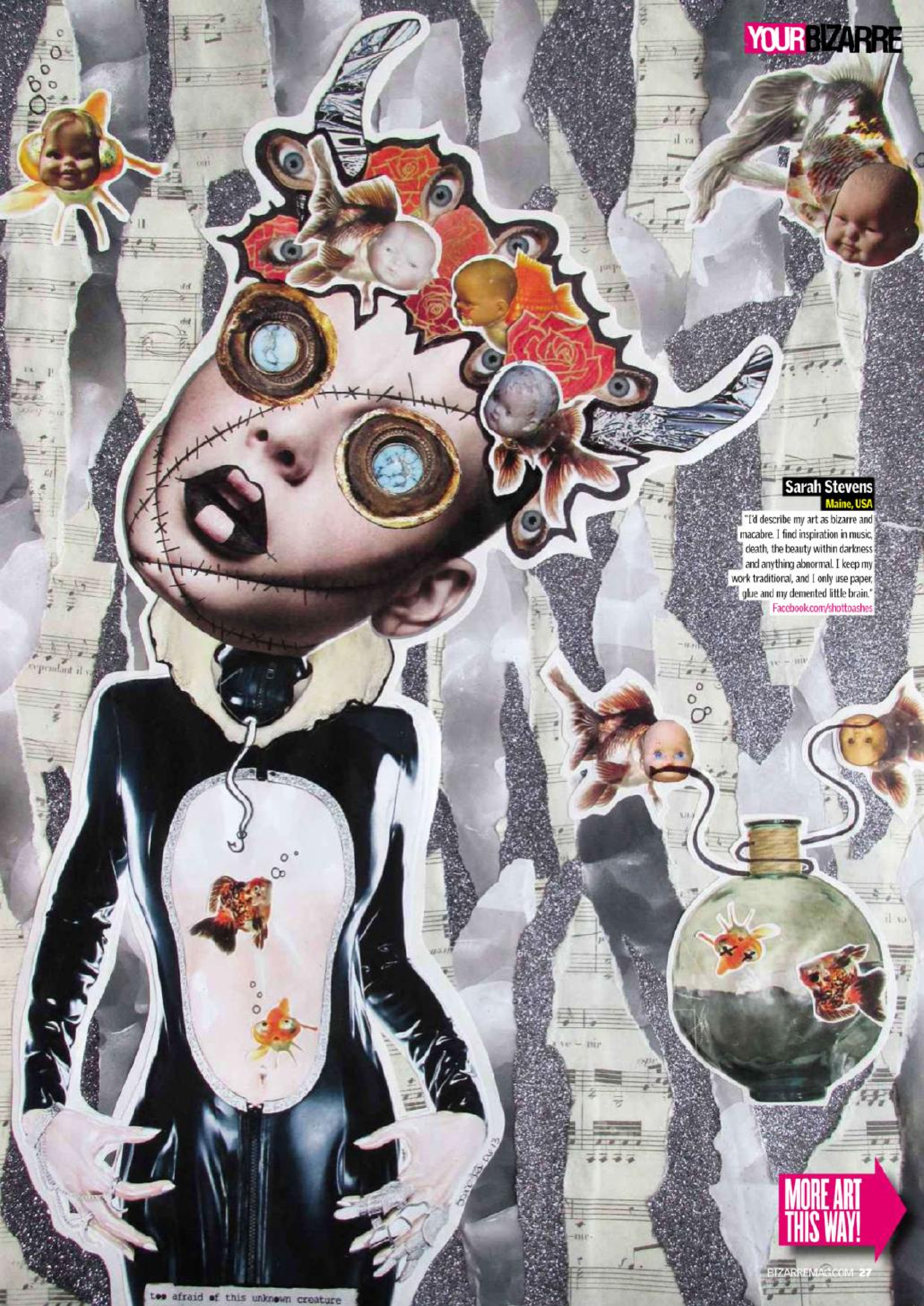


Michael L. Stewart

Philadelphia, USA

"Although my art has dark themes, it's brought to life by vivid colours and warm tones. My inspiration often comes from fire; I see visions while studying the flames."

Pyropainter.com


too afraid of this unknown creature

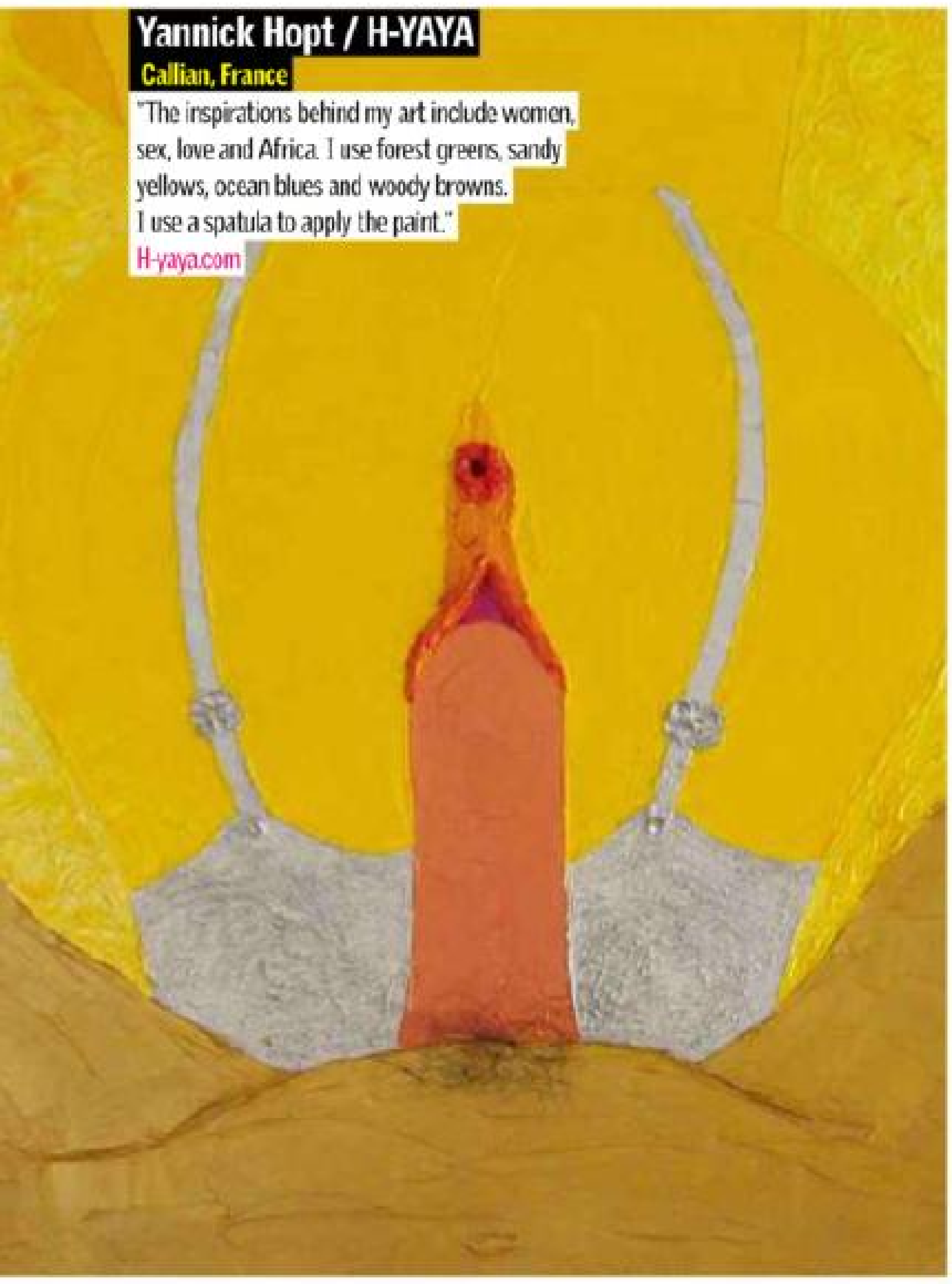
Sarah Stevens

Maine, USA

"I'd describe my art as bizarre and macabre. I find inspiration in music, death, the beauty within darkness and anything abnormal. I keep my work traditional, and I only use paper, glue and my demented little brain."

Facebook.com/shottoashes

MORE ART THIS WAY!

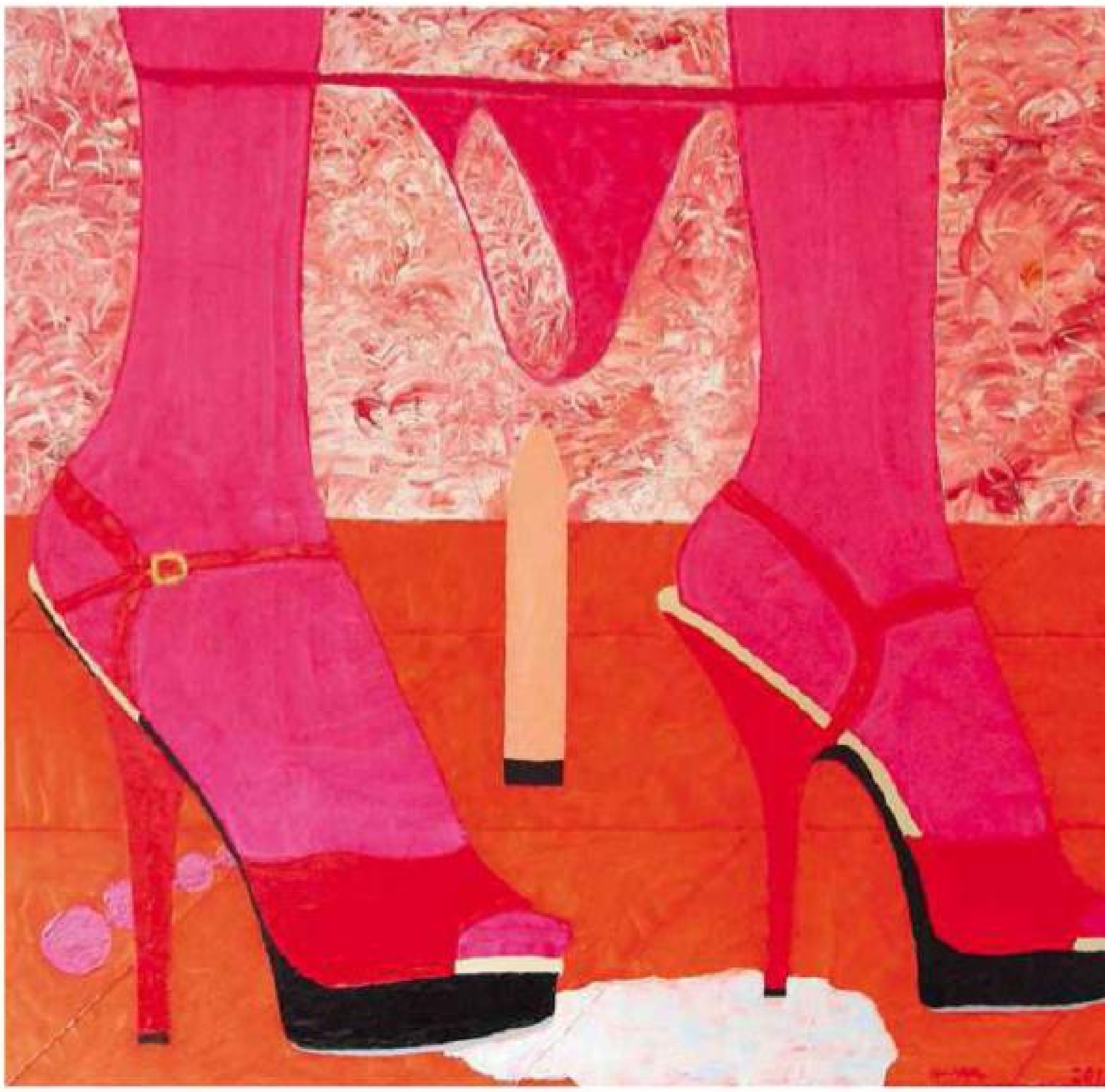


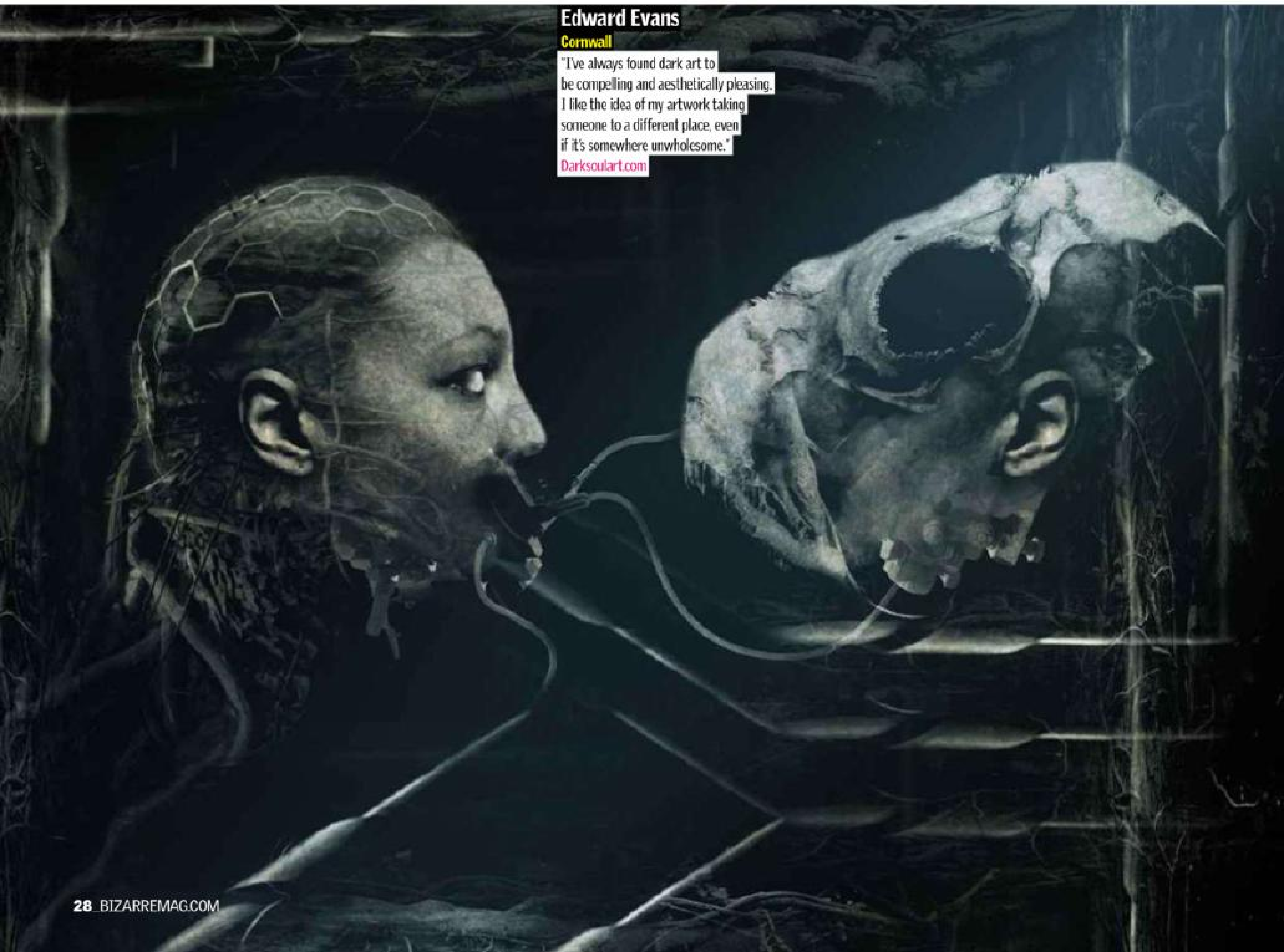
Yannick Hopt / H-YAYA

Callian, France

"The inspirations behind my art include women, sex, love and Africa. I use forest greens, sandy yellows, ocean blues and woody browns. I use a spatula to apply the paint."

H-yaya.com





Edward Evans

Cornwall

"I've always found dark art to be compelling and aesthetically pleasing. I like the idea of my artwork taking someone to a different place, even if it's somewhere unwholesome."

Darksoulart.com

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FIND OUT MORE ON P36

BIZARRE'S Ultra Vixens

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PICTURES: JULIJKAI IMAGERY – EROTIC INK

ANNA QUINN

26, BRISTOL

"Before I snuff it, I want to go on a night out with Bruce Campbell and Jack Black, and re-enact *Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas* with my friends. I don't have regrets, just life experiences. As Bill Hicks once said, 'Life's just a ride.'"

SATERRA RENE

25, TEXAS, USA

"Two of my all-time favourite bands include Opeth and Tool, and I also admire Hunter S Thompson – he was an amazing writer. My hottest sexual fantasy involves porn star Christy Mack – I'm in love with her!"

PICTURE: RW PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

RED-HOT!
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ONLINE AT ULTRAVIXENS.NET

LISHA BLACKHURST

25, YORK

"I adore Bette Davis – she was an awesome, fiery lady who didn't take any shit! I also love anything cheesy or gory. If someone were to create a film called *The Eurovision Massacre*, I'd die happy!"

PICTURE: JOSEPH O'BRIEN PHOTOGRAPHER, IANJOP.COM

LOLA FILTH

21, MIDDLESBOROUGH

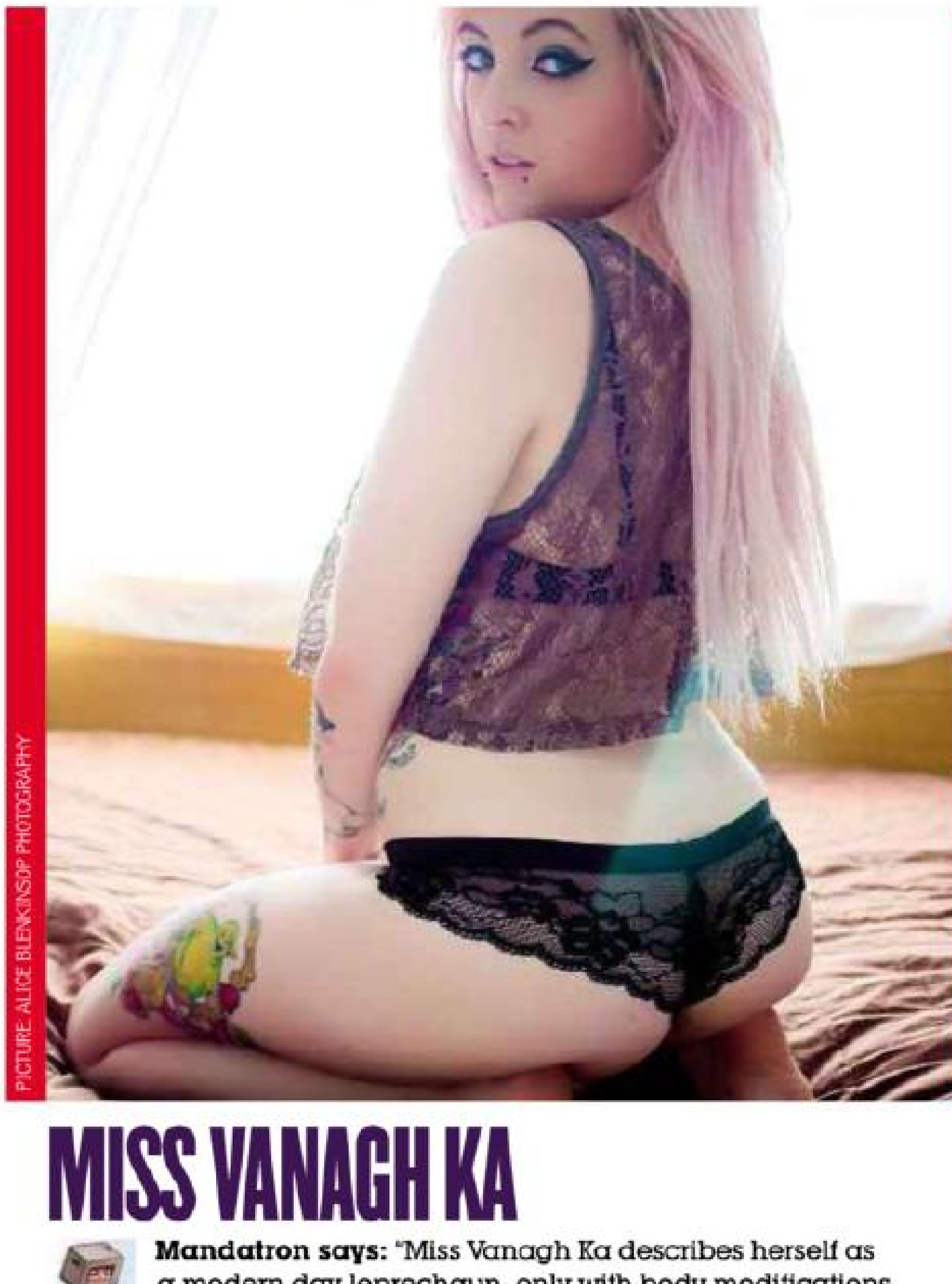
"I like finding out about new horror movie releases in *Bizarre*, while also having a cheeky perv at the alt.beauties. My favourite films include *The Lost Boys*, *Sinister* and *House Of 1,000 Corpses*."

PICTURE: JON MEIKLE

OUR NEW FAVES

***BIZARRE* ART DIRECTOR DAVE KELSALL AND MANDATRON JUDGE NEW ARRIVALS ON ULTRAVIXENS.NET**

PICTURE: ALICE BLENKINSOP PHOTOGRAPHY



PICTURE: PAUL DALE PHOTOGRAPHY

CHELLOCHAN

Mandatron says: "This blue-eyed beauty has a proper knack for taking knock-out selfies. She's also a skilled chameleon when it comes to shoot themes; from a kawaii cutie to a fiery-haired fox with looks that could kill, Chellochan sure knows how to catch your attention!"

Dave Kelsall says: "Is this a selfie? Really? Impressive. Her pic where she dresses up as Juliet from *Lollipop Chainsaw* is cool as well... an underrated game… buy it now for £3 in CEX!"

MISS VANAGH KA

Mandatron says: "Miss Vanagh Ka describes herself as a modern day leprechaun, only with body modifications and bright hair. Jaysis. If this is how leprechauns look these days, I've got to set up a trap and catch one of my own! Check out her recent Harley Quinn pictures on her Ultravixens.net profile… pow!"

Dave says: "More My Little Pony than a leprechaun. We all know leprechauns wear green suits, funny hats and spend all day guarding pots of gold. A bit like the editor of *Bizarre*…"

KER-CHING!

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ULTRA VIXEN: ANASTASSIA BEAR
PICTURE: TWISTED PHOTOGRAPHY

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PICTURE: LOUD AND FLASHY

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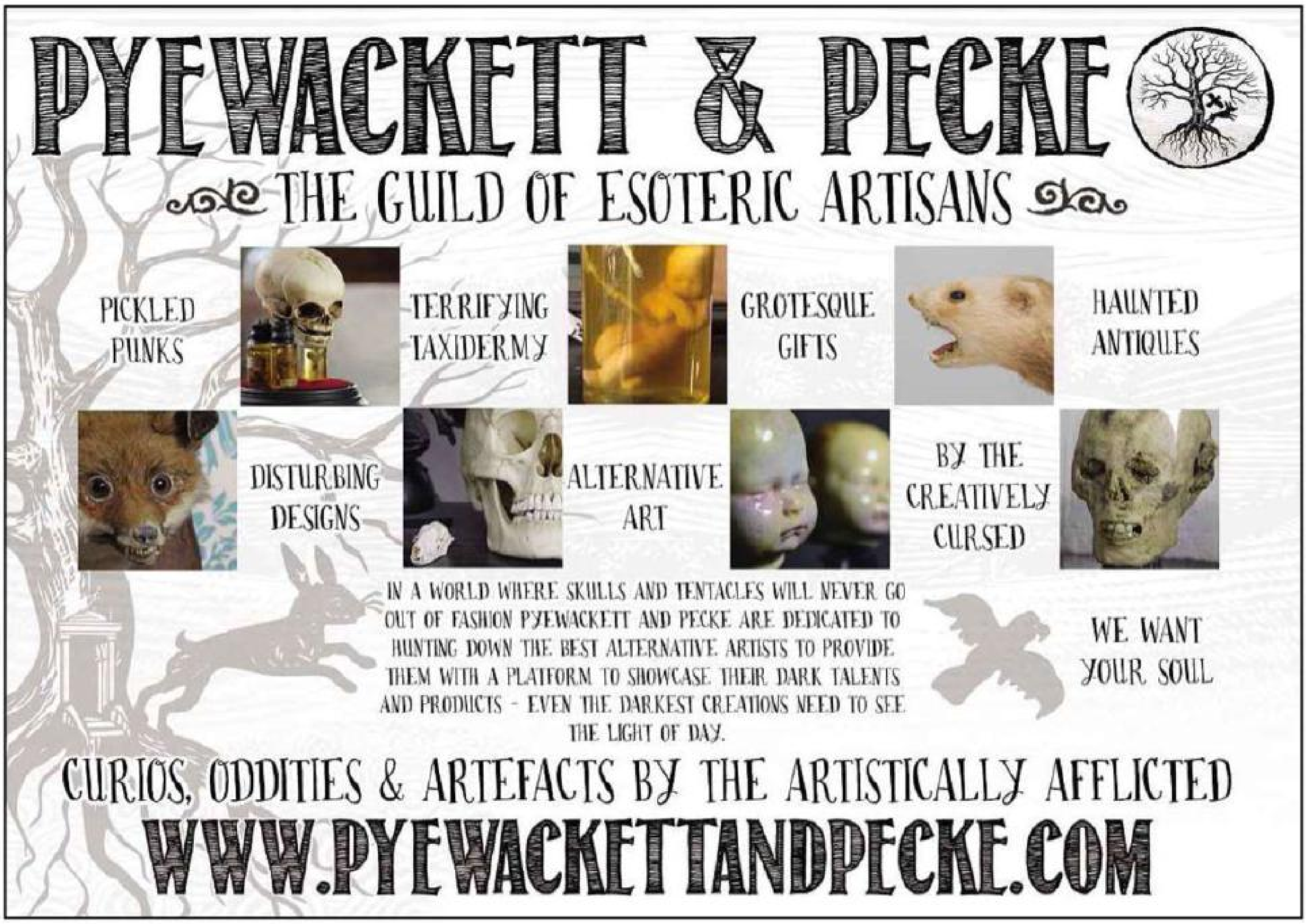

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ALEXANDER_CANDELA

VIVA LAS VARGAS!

Sexy, selfless, smart, impulsive. Whether she's helping sick kids in Asia or getting inked with complex scientific symbols, it's fair to say we've never had a cover star quite like budding neuroscientist **Carrina Vargas**… →

PICTURES
YU SHING HIM,
DRESSREAL.COM/HIM

Dammit! We've been trying for days to pen an introduction to this interview – but despite our best efforts, nothing we write will ever do justice to Carrina Vargas.

The bohemian beauty, who hails from San Francisco's Bay Area, currently works as a behavioural analyst, but is also a budding neuroscientist who wants to discover pain treatments that don't have any shitty side effects. And that's just for starters. She's also obsessed with typewriters, nurses sick kids, and tells tall tales about being duffed up by a mysterious Mr Pizzle. Heck, we'll just let Carrina explain everything herself...

Hola, Carrina! Before we start there's one thing you want to clear up, and that's the matter of your ethnicity. So, where do you actually come from?

I was born and raised in the Bay Area, near San Francisco. But ever since I was young people have asked me: "What *are* you?" I used to lie and make up crazy things, and because I'm a girl I always got away with it. Truthfully, I'm half Austrian, a quarter Mexican, and quarter Cantonese. My parents' wedding photos are weird. I'm told I turned out alright, though.

You sure did. Your *Bizarre* cover images were shot in Hong Kong. What adventures did you have there?

The pictures were taken during a pivotal period in my life, when I travelled throughout Southeast Asia to get a new perspective on life. I worked on farms, in hospitals and in orphanages, particularly with young people who were at risk. I now carry a small amount of tuberculosis in my system as a result, but that should clear up this winter!

I did all the typical touristy things such as climbing to Angkor Thom, smelling (and trying) the dreaded durian fruit, and playing with giant spiders. I also ate a pickled duck egg containing a fertilised embryo (a balut or 'pong tia koon' in Cambodian) with a shot of whiskey in a dark smoky bar. As well as the egg, the bartender gave me an expertly rolled spliff!

I saw typhoons and lightning like I'd never seen before. I wandered the streets speaking what poor Khmer (official language of Cambodia) I could manage. I celebrated Khmer New Year in Siem Reap. I saw the shantiest places I'd ever seen in my life, and I encourage everyone to look into the relocation crisis that's happening around Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, due to their piece-of-shit prime minister. I was also robbed by a man while I was riding in a tuk-tuk – he swiped my Ferragamo bag while operating a scooter. But yes, I know, why the fuck would I take that with me to Cambodia...?

Losing anything on holiday sucks, but having a luxury designer bag swiped must hurt...

Yeah! My first thought was, "Fuck, man... he's just going to take the iPhone (which go for nearly a thousand dollars in Cambodia) and throw away the bag." But, hey, it was worth it. I'm constantly losing things, anyway. As the novelist Chuck Palahniuk once said, "The things you own begin to own you." Living a gypsy life changes your attitude. I consider people to be more important than any shit you can replace.

Right on, Carrina. Who's the dog in your shoot (see p44)? You look like close buddies...

The pup's name is Cream. It belongs to my photographer, YuShing Him, and his sweet →

Mi Vida Loca

“I GAVE AWAY MY INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT WITH 35,000 FOLLOWERS TO AN ARTIST NAMED LUZ. SOME PEOPLE CALLED ME CRAZY”

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girlfriend. And, yes, we did get along quite well. I get along with pretty much any animal, even the crazy monkeys that stole my smokes in Thailand.

Given your interest in health issues, it won't surprise readers to hear you have a degree in medicine. Is that where your selfless desire to help others stems from?

I studied medicine as an undergraduate and paid my tuition fees by modelling and using several generous grants. I'm now studying for a MD in clinical psychiatry with a specialisation in neuroscience. One of my earliest childhood memories is excitedly unwrapping a microscope – a real one, not a toy, as my father was serious about maths and science – and collecting as many bugs as I could. I even cut my finger to put some of my own blood on a slide to see what it looked like. I didn't kill anything, nor did I participate in any of the other serial killer precursors, but I did enjoy taking things apart to see how they worked and what they looked like.

When I was older I lost my best friend, Nick, to a fatal overdose of opiates, not long after I'd performed chest compressions and fractured his ribs when he'd been fucking around with drugs. After that there was a string of drug-related deaths in my social circle, and I lost many close friends. That also inspired me to pursue a career in researching methods of chronic pain relief that don't have detrimental side effects or addictive qualities. I believe this is a major factor in what drives my motivation to help others.

Is your modelling going to take a back seat to your philanthropic goals?

I recently semi-retired from the modelling world and started using my real name, which is Noelle, in social media. I'm not opposed to doing some modelling projects, but I don't want to waste my energy on shoots I consider irrelevant or unethical because I have too many other things to do. I truly believe my path is to help as many people as possible by gaining as much scientific knowledge as I can, so that I'll be able to treat people with maximum efficiency.

When I announced my 'retirement' from modelling, I gave away my Instagram account with over 35,000 followers to a young artist named Luz – but people called me crazy because I didn't sell my account. But, the way I see it, the account helped me market my modelling career during my undergraduate studies. Now that I'm doing other things, Luz needs it more than I do to promote her work. And what the fuck do Instagram accounts sell for, anyway? It seems absurd. I don't understand all this social media bullshit. People invest too much time in petty things.

You describe yourself as having 'gypsy' heritage and you love to travel. So where are you living at the moment?

I'm residing at my lake house in a little town five hours north of San Francisco. It's part of what's known as the Emerald Triangle, which is where the most marijuana is cultivated in the *entire* world. And I'm a proponent of legalising marijuana. I've done clinical rotations and found myself in the oncology ward, passing joints to patients!

You wouldn't believe how much my eccentric lakeside town has changed. It was once a thriving resort town where celebrities and the affluent – Frank Sinatra, Marilyn Monroe and Bela Lugosi, to name a few – would visit every summer, and most of the baby boomer generation have many fond memories of vacationing here. Now it's decaying, deserted, gloomy and misunderstood. Methamphetamine is rampant. There's a great need for child welfare services, drug rehabilitation, jobs and, in a broader sense, reconstruction. I plan to make a photo book where vintage pictures of the old town are featured alongside images of what it looks like today, and I'll juxtapose pictures to highlight the changes. I think it will be a daunting project to work on.

Despite your town's gloomy transition, do you still have a lot of adventures there?

In my spare time I paint and photograph the strangeness around my area. I ride dirt bikes on the fire roads, and shoot my Remington 870 at beer cans in the backyard – you know, that white trash stuff I love so dearly! My man and I love to watch *Tales From The Crypt* marathons. I also read science journals like a mad woman, cuddle with my Basenji named Beta, and fish pretty much every day, which is a hobby I inherited from my grandfather. He was a veteran of three wars who'd never say no to a day of fishing, under any conditions. Every day I go fishing for bass and catfish the size of newborn babies. I only use live bait. Catfish will eat anything, especially if it smells like shit. For bass I prefer minnows, but it's a shame to have to put the C-shaped hook up their nose. I have a septum ring, and I *know* that pain!

> "I AM HALF AUSTRIAN, A QUARTER MEXICAN AND QUARTER CANTONESE. MY PARENTS' WEDDING PHOTOS ARE WEIRD"

You also have cool ink, including a chemical structure on your left hand. What can you tell us about your body art?

The chemical structure is a molecule known as thymine. It's one of the four base nucleotides that forms DNA, and it bonds with adenine. My brother has a tattoo of the molecular structure of adenine. Well, I like to say that, but in reality we were so tossed when we got the tattoos that he made a mistake and got thymine as well! It's also worth mentioning is that the umbrella on my face is not intended to catch my tears or some lily-livered shit like that. I simply got it so that if I ever forget to go out without my umbrella, I'll always have one with me. On my left thigh I also have a Haitian Vodou ritual symbol, →

which I got in New Orleans from a high priestess. It helps me when I'm playing blackjack...

That's pretty impressive. Does your hand ink ever get noticed by doctors, scientists and other boffins?
All my tattoos get noticed, by everyone. I don't cover my tattoos at work, but I dress professionally – but you can always see the tattoos on my hands, throat and face. I figure that if I can do the job far better than the next person who doesn't have tattoos, why wouldn't someone want to employ me? And I've got a great job as of now, working as an applied behavioural analyst.

Do you have any plans to travel again?
I'm craving a trip to Brazil or Liberia – you know, places you won't find in travel agency ads. Why else would I have chosen to live in Cambodia for three months the first time I ever left the United States, right?

Why Liberia? Is this to help with its recovery from the civil wars?
Well, this may sound selfish, but I'm more interested in documenting Liberia's underbelly and exposing it to people sitting in their first world living rooms. I want to show people a side of life they have no understanding of. And, of course, I'd help the people who live there in any way I could.

Carrina, we have to say you're one of the most unique cover stars we've ever had in *Bizarre* – in a good way. Where do you think you'll be in five years time?
In five years... hell, I've really got no idea. Sometimes when I reflect on my future there are places and people I expect to be involved with in some capacity, but I've found that, on this journey, I'm always thrown a curveball. I only have a handful of dear friends because I prefer loyalty and integrity over aimlessness, ignorance and, quite frankly, stupidity. In five years maybe I'll be in Thailand, treating patients and drinking a nice single malt with Matt Dillon. He goes to Thailand often, and I've always found him intriguing as an actor and as a person. Though he made a shitty Charles Bukowski in *Factotum*. Mickey Rourke did it better in *Barfly*.

We reckon your life story could inspire an Oscar-worthy epic. Who would you like to direct the film of your life?
Without a doubt, Wong Kar Wai who directed *The Grandmaster* and *2046*. Along with the cinematographer Christopher Doyle, he has produced some fine films. I was quite interested in screenwriting during my undergraduate years, and I wrote two screenplays on my 1948 Royal Deluxe typewriter. They were inspired by films such as *2046* and *Fallen Angels*.

Finally, can you tell *Bizarre* a weird fact or secret about yourself.
In college I had a bit too much to drink one night and spray-painted my real name, along with the area code that I grew up in, on the →

> "I'M CURRENTLY RESIDING AT MY LAKE HOUSE IN A SLEEPY LITTLE TOWN, WHICH IS WHERE THE MOST MARIJUANA IS CULTIVATED IN THE *ENTIRE* WORLD"

side of my apartment building. And, no, I wasn't the only one with a spray can in my hand – but I was the only one who got caught! I never revealed the names of my friends who were spraying with me – I just paid my dues. I credit an old friend I'll call Mr Pizzle for giving me advice I should have taken. Perhaps then I would not have learned so many lessons the hard way. And, wherever Mr Pizzle is, I hope he knows I sure did appreciate it. And I miss his futile attempts to punch me in the throat...

Hungry to see more of Carrina? Then check out Wherescarrina.tumblr.com and Dressreal.com/HIM. You can also see the Instagram account Carrina gave to the artist Luz at @youremynirvana, and Carrina's personal Instagram account is @noellealenz

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CARRINA VARGAS

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PICTURE: YU SHING HIM, DRESSREAL.COM/HIM

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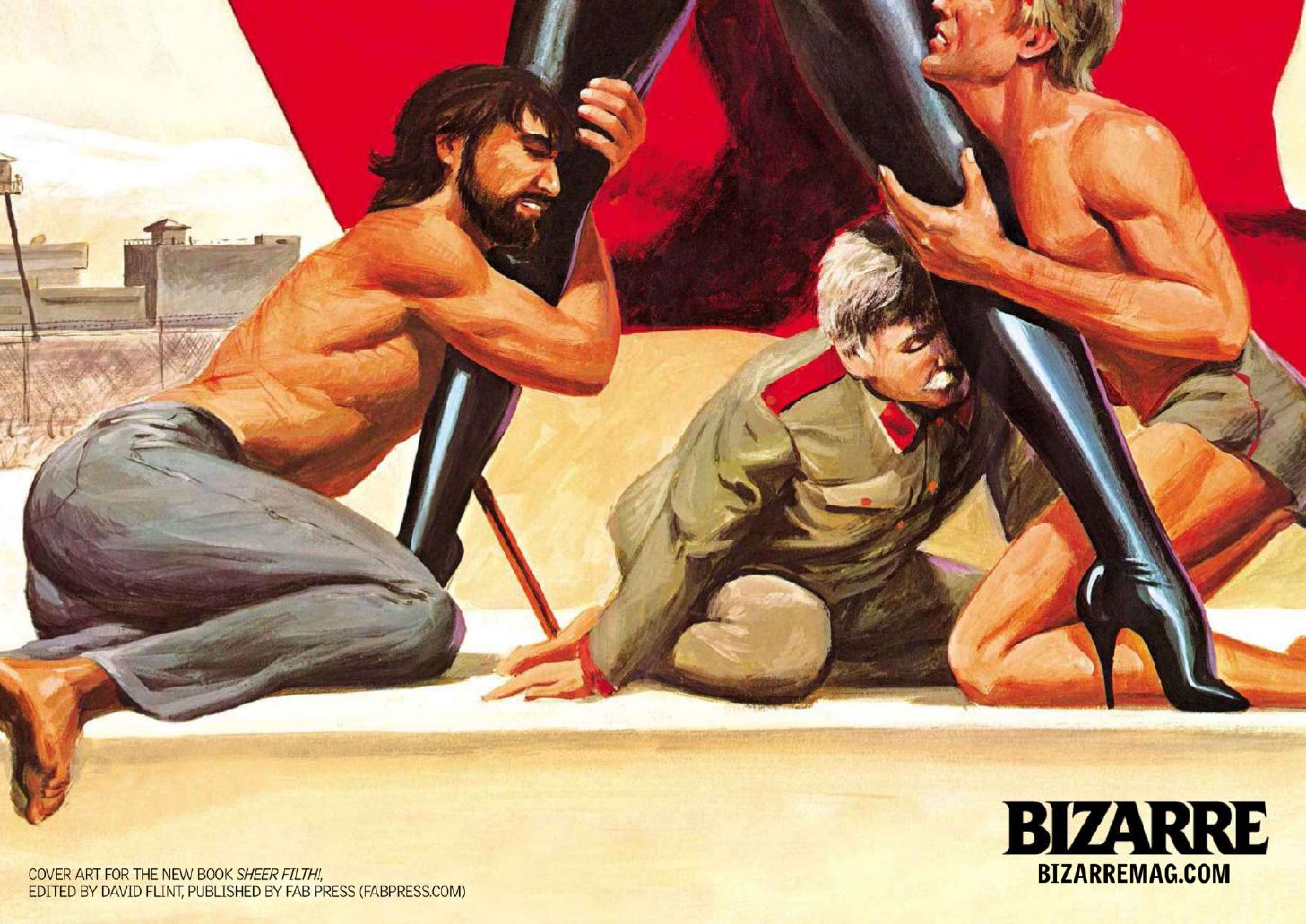
DITA VON TEESE



COVER ART FOR THE NEW BOOK *SHEER FILTH!*,
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MEMORIES IN A DAMAGED BRAIN

The Man Whose Mind Exploded, a new documentary from director Toby Amies, explores the incredible and tragic life of **Drako Zarhazar**, the brain-damaged exhibitionist and philosopher who created an autobiographical world in his Brighton flat, just so he could remember who he was…

WORDS
STEPHEN DAULTREY

PICTURES
TOBY AMIES / TONY BANWELL COURTESY OF *THE MAN WHOSE MIND EXPLODED* BY TOBY AMIES

"When I first set eyes on Drako he was cycling through Brighton wearing a cape," says film-maker Toby Amies. "He had blue eyebrows and a shaved, tattooed head, and my first question was, 'Who the *FUCK* is that?' Brighton is full of people who *think* they're eccentric, but only a few genuinely fit that description. Drako was emperor of the eccentrics."

From his appearance climbing out of an egg in the surreal classic *Soft Self-Portrait Of Salvador Dalí*, to becoming a body modification revolutionary in Thatcher's Britain in the 1980s, the story of Drako Oho Zarhazar reads like the script of a John Waters movie.

Born in 1936, Drako initially trained as an interior designer in Geneva, but his natural flamboyance soon saw him landing dancing gigs at the Moulin Rouge cabaret show in Paris.

In the 1950s, when Salvador Dalí instructed his colleagues to "find me an angel" during a sojourn to France, they returned with Drako in tow, and the feisty young performer instantly became one of the Spanish surrealist's principle models and muses.

Drako also performed in key films by left-field directors such as Andy Warhol and Derek Jarman, and was one of the first Brits to get his penis inked and pierced, at a time when tattooing little stars on your stomach was considered a taboo.

Toby Amies gets naked on Brighton Beach with Drako

Charismatic, charming and proudly gay, Drako was individualism personified. But it wasn't these qualities that inspired Amies to shoot the documentary *The Man Whose Mind Exploded*; instead, it was the tiny council flat in which Drako lived that got the director's creative juices flowing.

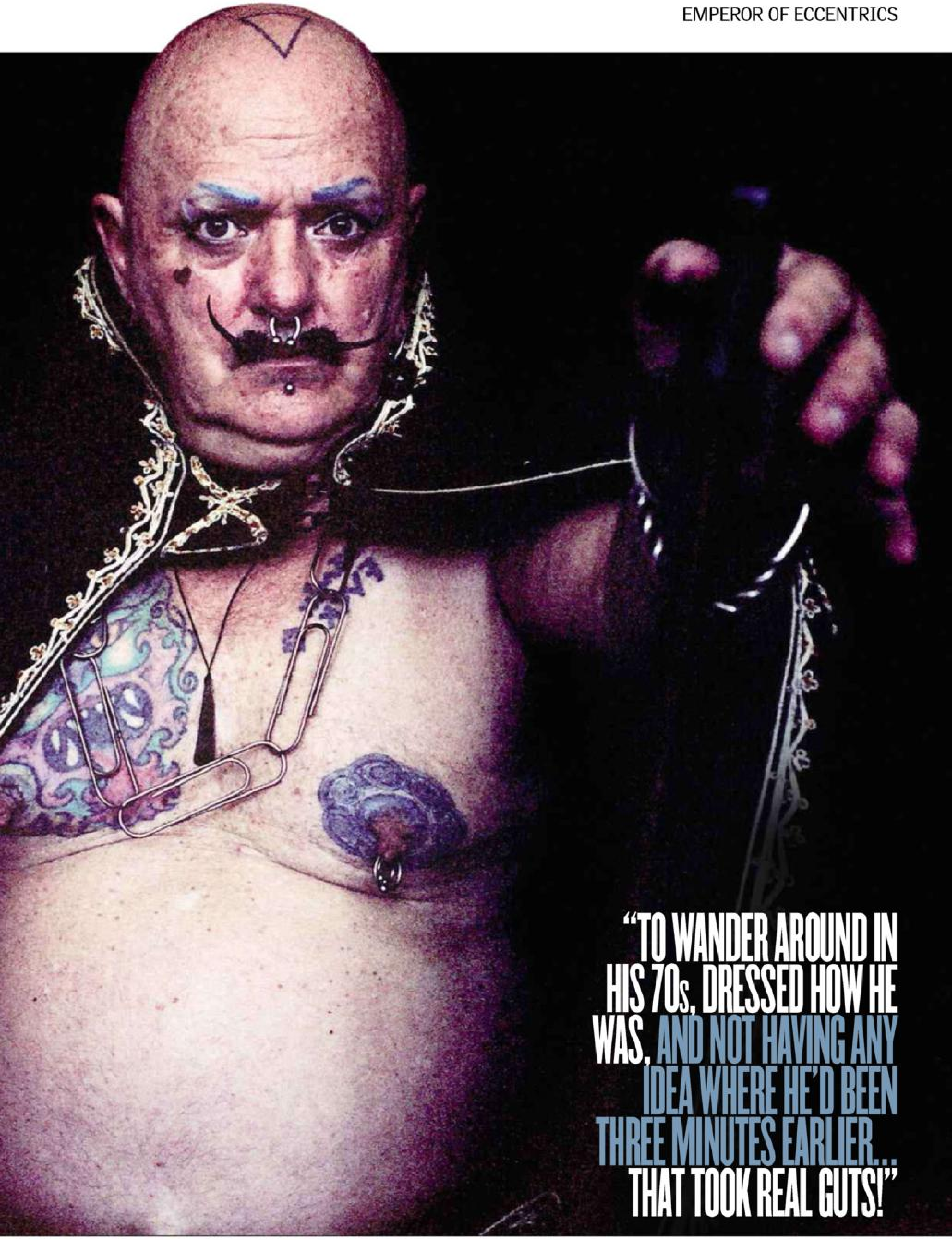
"The inside of Drako's flat was an extraordinary work of art – and a funny and filthy work of art at that," says Amies. "He'd created a three-dimensional autobiographical collage. When I saw it, it blew me away. It was the most whacked out, freethinking form of interior design I'd ever come across."

HOME SWEET HOME

Entering Drako's Brighton flat was like stepping into his mind. Taking the form of a bizarre maze of memories, everywhere visitors turned they'd be confronted by photos, artefacts, Christian imagery and pornography, all carefully and artistically arranged by its eccentric owner.

But Drako's quirky home was more than just a work of art; it was also an important tool designed to remind him who he was.

In the 1980s, following his colourful European adventures, Drako returned to Sussex to be closer to his family. But not long after returning to England he became involved in two horrendous motorcycle accidents, →



> “TO WANDER AROUND IN HIS 70s, DRESSED HOW HE WAS, AND NOT HAVING ANY IDEA WHERE HE’D BEEN THREE MINUTES EARLIER… THAT TOOK REAL GUTS!”

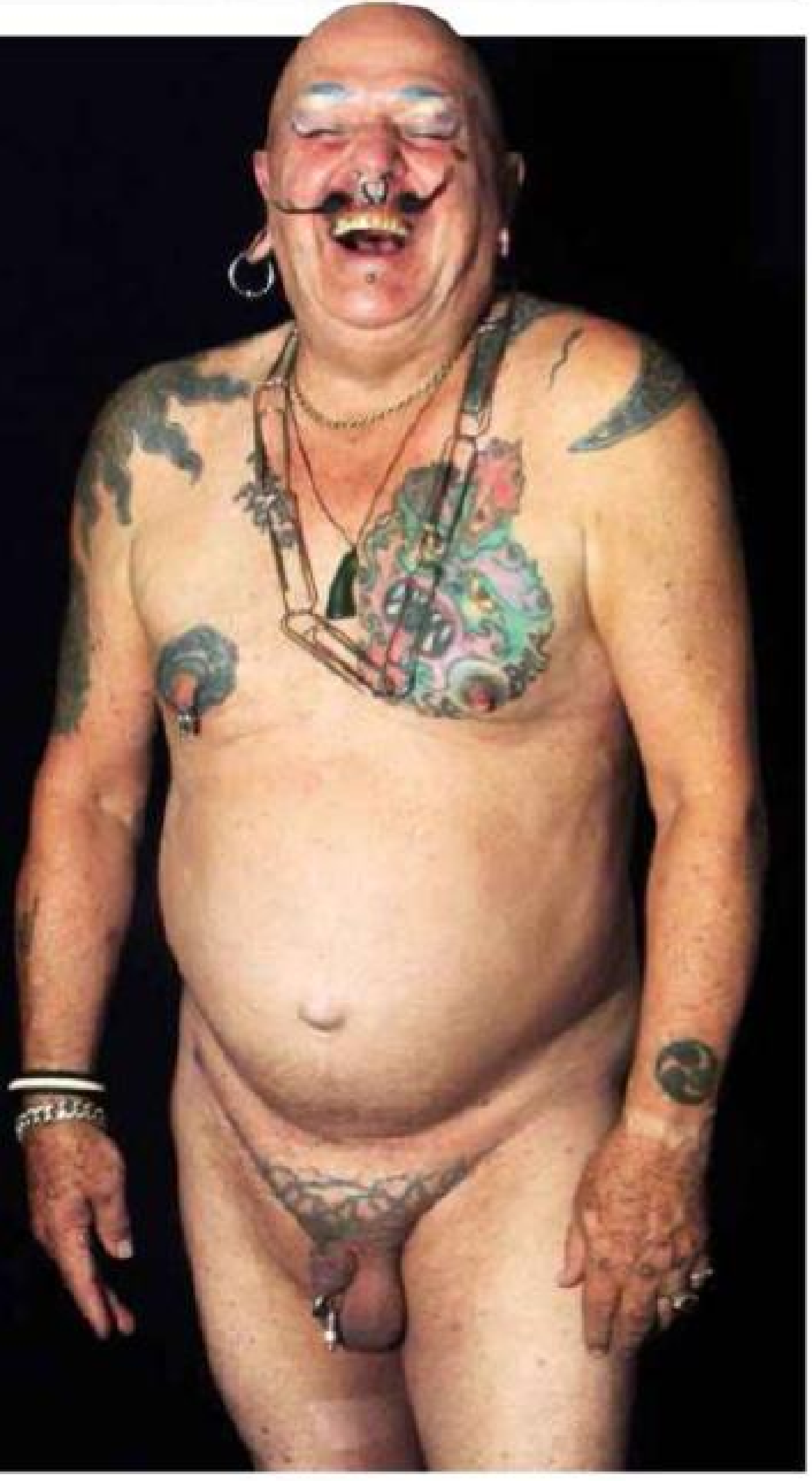
both of which left him in deep comas. By the time Drako had awoken from his second extended bout of unconsciousness, his brain had suffered irreparable damage. Specialists speculated that he'd developed anterograde amnesia, an extreme form of amnesia that prevents victims from creating new memories. Suddenly, the middle-aged queen couldn't remember anything that had happened to him only moments earlier. But never one to admit defeat, Drako simply started living his life entirely in the present.

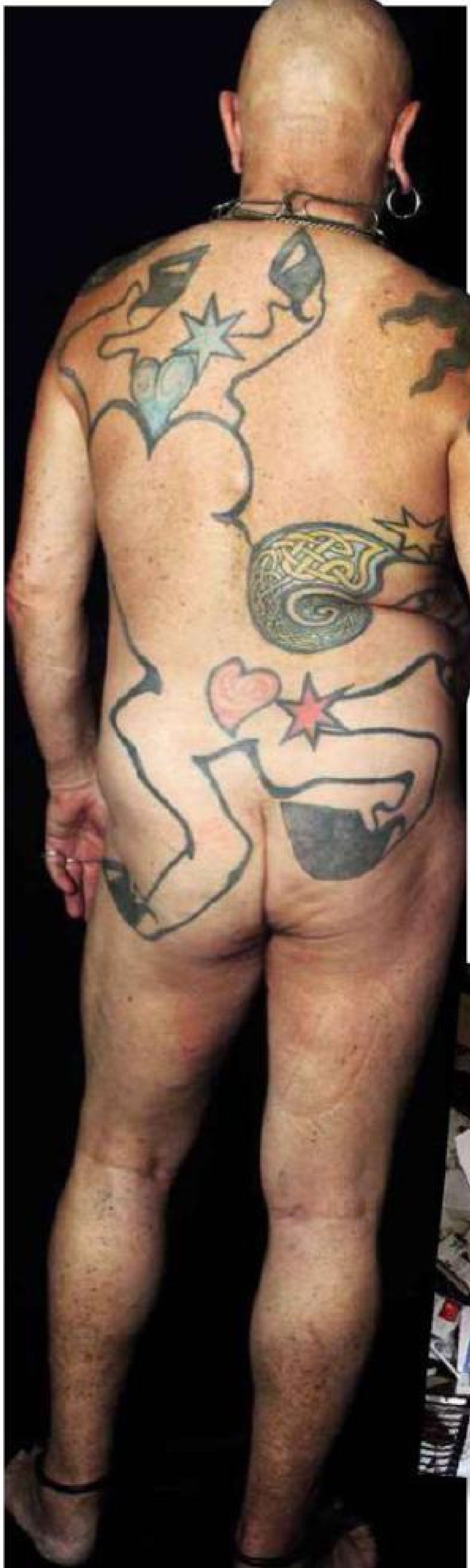
"When you're faced with the terrifying reality of not knowing what happened to you only three minutes earlier, the potential for losing sight of who you are is enormous," says Amies. "So Drako wrote hundreds of notes to himself. These weren't simple shopping lists, but were instead reminders of what he liked and who he was. He also had his personal philosophies inked onto his body, including the phrase 'Trust Absolute Unconditional' (TAU) – the motto by which he lived his life – and a massive tattoo of Aries, his birth sign, with a sperm coming out to 'fuck the moon'."

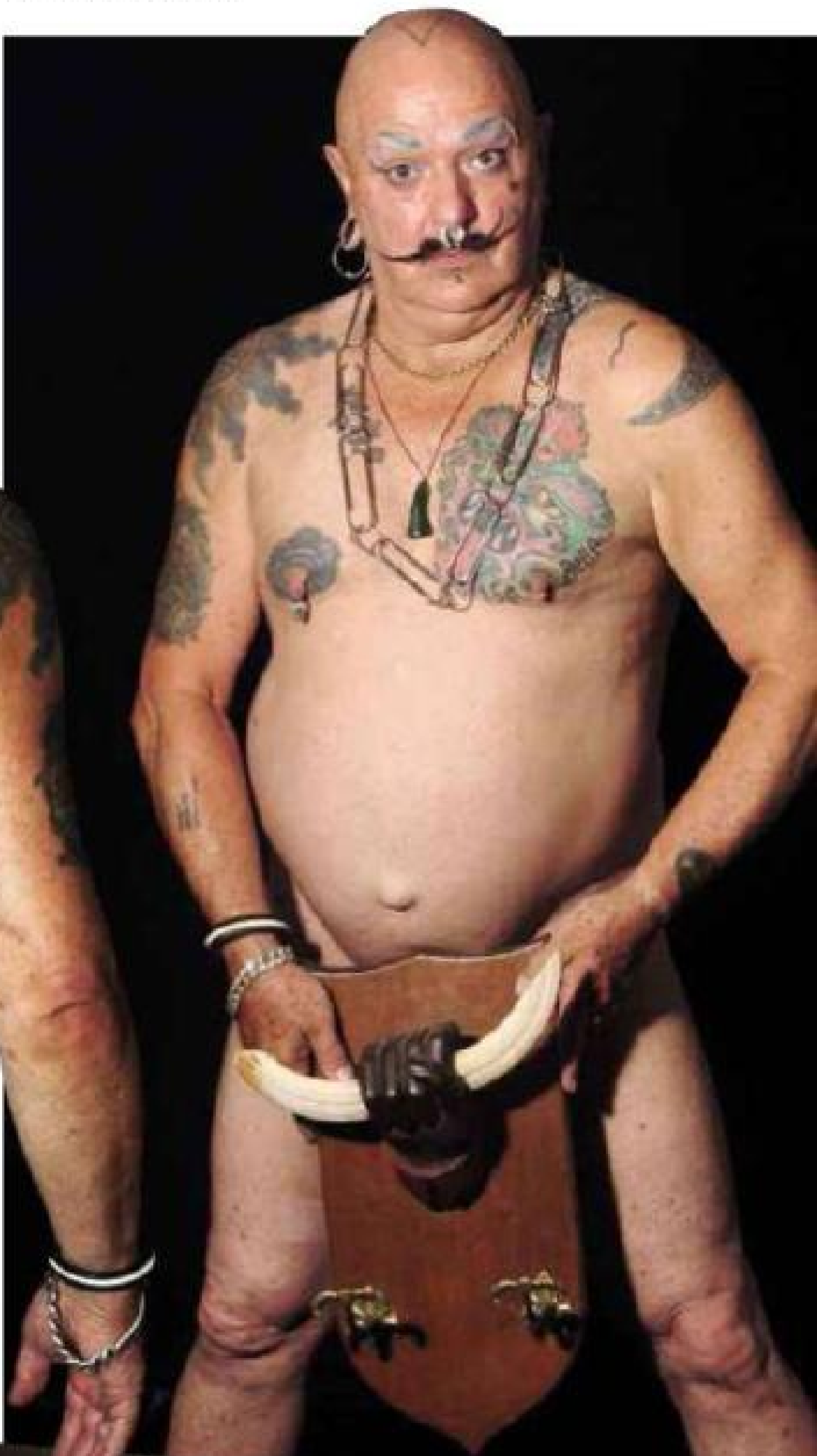
While these notes written in English and French provided unique decor for Drako's home, they also acted as a running commentary on his life. One memorable note was penned by Drako to remind himself why he'd cut nipple holes in all his shirts – to give him instant access whenever he wanted to pull on them. And as he'd been doing this for most of his adult life, by the time Drako passed away his nipples had become unnaturally long and droopy.

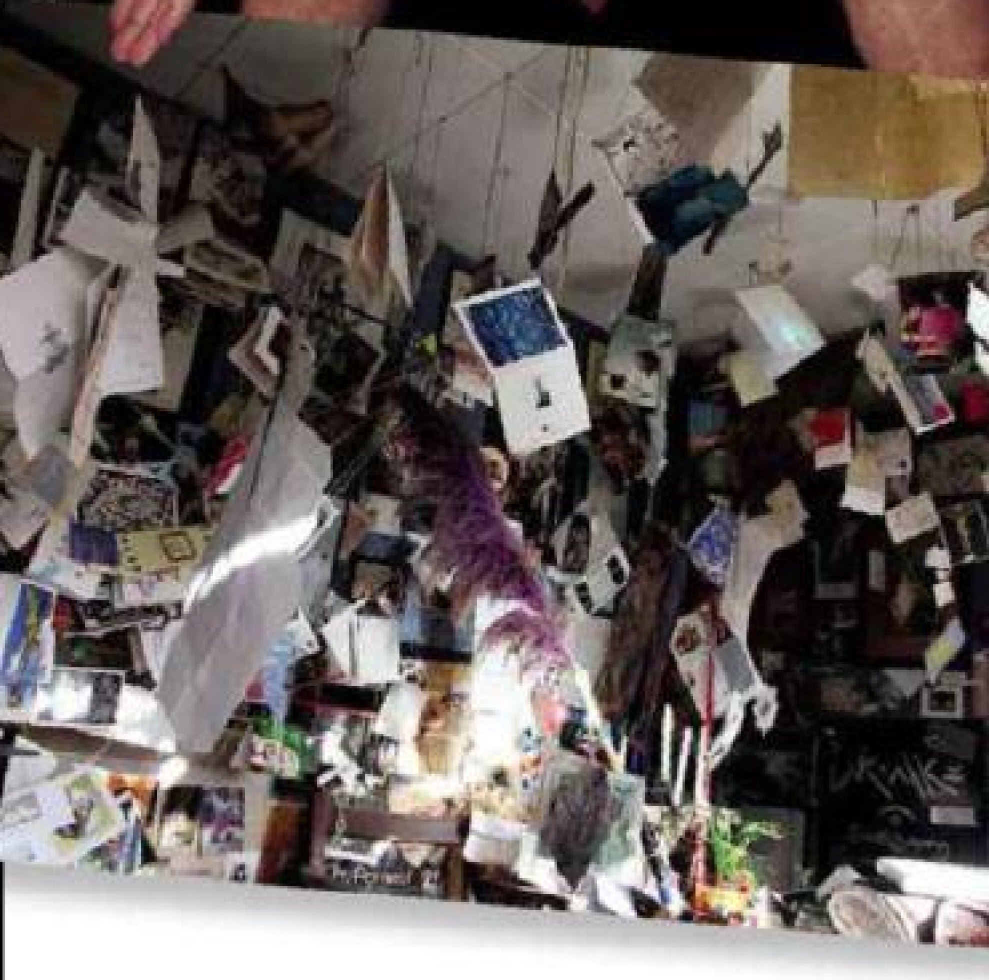
But it wasn't only the strange notes that amazed visitors to Drako's Brighton flat. On his ceiling was a huge montage of shirtless bodybuilders which Amies describes as resembling "an explosion on a meat counter", and there were penises, too. Lots of penises. Whether they were cut from porn mags, crudely scrawled in pen or original photos from his private collection, Drako's cock collection would have made a sex shop worker blush. Yet there was nothing gratuitously sleazy about Drako's *mise-en-scène*; instead, it was a projection of his personality and overt sexuality.

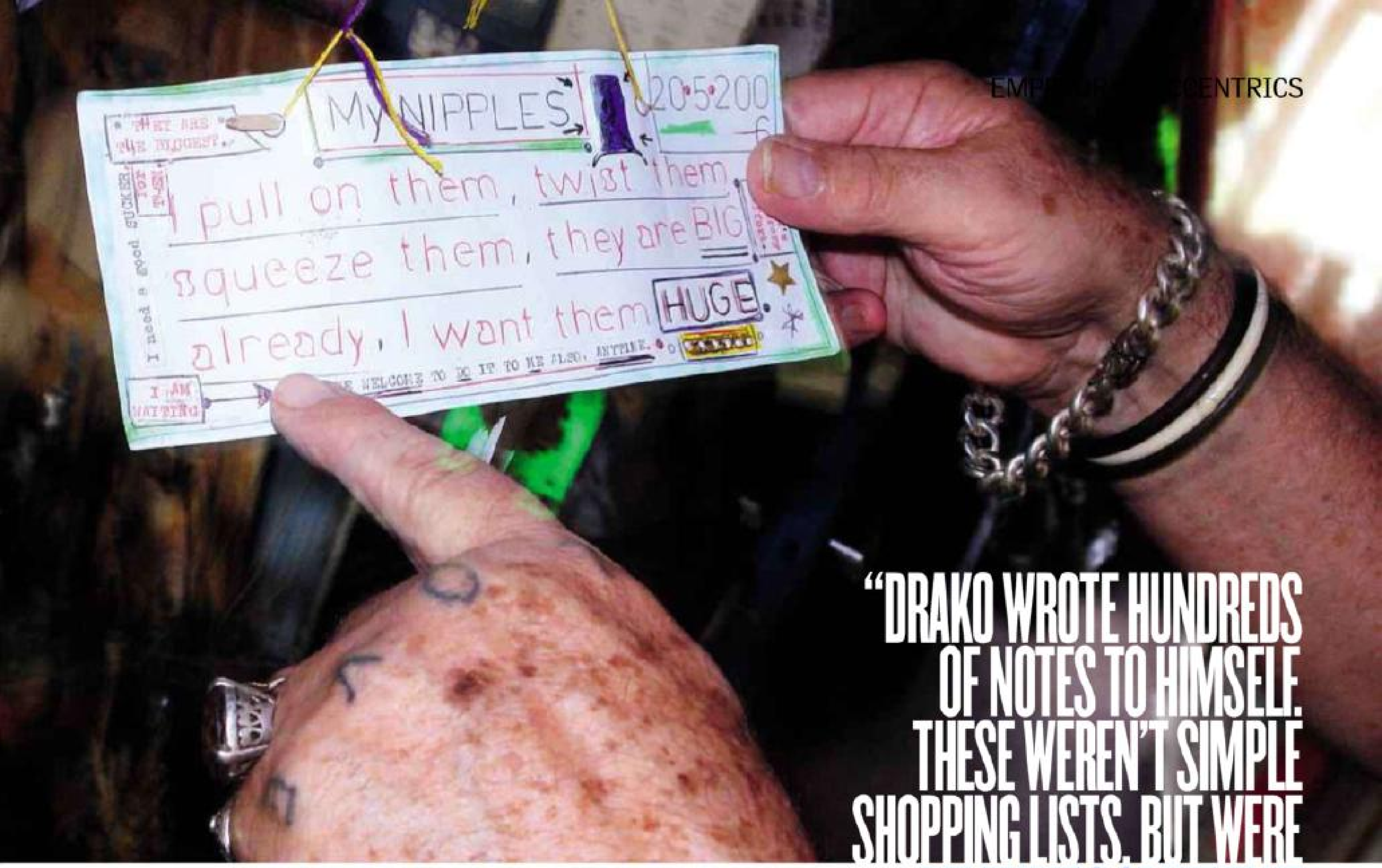
"Any words you use to describe Drako's sexuality usually end up being unclean adjectives such as 'filthy', but there was nothing 'filthy' about it," says Amies. "Drako wasn't a dirty old man. His sexuality was saucy more than anything. He simply continued to be himself through all periods of his life, even when experiencing difficult circumstances. That's one of the reasons I wanted to know more about him."










My NIPPLES
20.5.200 6
THEY ARE THE BIGGEST
I need a good SUCKER
I pull on them, twist them, squeeze them, they are BIG already, I want them HUGE.
WELCOME TO DO IT TO ME ALSO, ANYTIME.
I AM WAITING

> "DRAKO WROTE HUNDREDS OF NOTES TO HIMSELF. THESE WEREN'T SIMPLE SHOPPING LISTS, BUT WERE REMINDERS OF WHAT HE LIKED AND WHO HE WAS"

HYGIENE HORRORS

But while *The Man Whose Mind Exploded* captures the sense of camp, cheeky fun that characterised Drako's home, it also explores the sad reality of his condition.

In one segment, Amies rummages through piles of trash in Drako's flat, recoiling at the scent of aged cat piss and desperately trying to convince the owner that he should throw some stuff away. In another harrowing scene, the film-maker observes the fetid condition of Drako's feet, which was caused by the former dancer forgetting to change his socks. When there was no-one there to remind Drako how to live his life, his body and health often suffered.

But Amies is quick to point out that such hygiene horrors should not deter viewers from appreciating the genius and necessity of Drako's interactive creation. "The typical approach of most directors would be to make a television programme about Drako's messy house, much like Channel 4's *The Hoarder Next Door*," reflects Amies. "Clearly, hoarding can become a huge problem, and I explore that in my film. But at the same time it's important to recognise that people express their identities through their homes, and Drako was an extreme example of someone who needed to prove his identity because of the irreparable damage his brain had suffered."

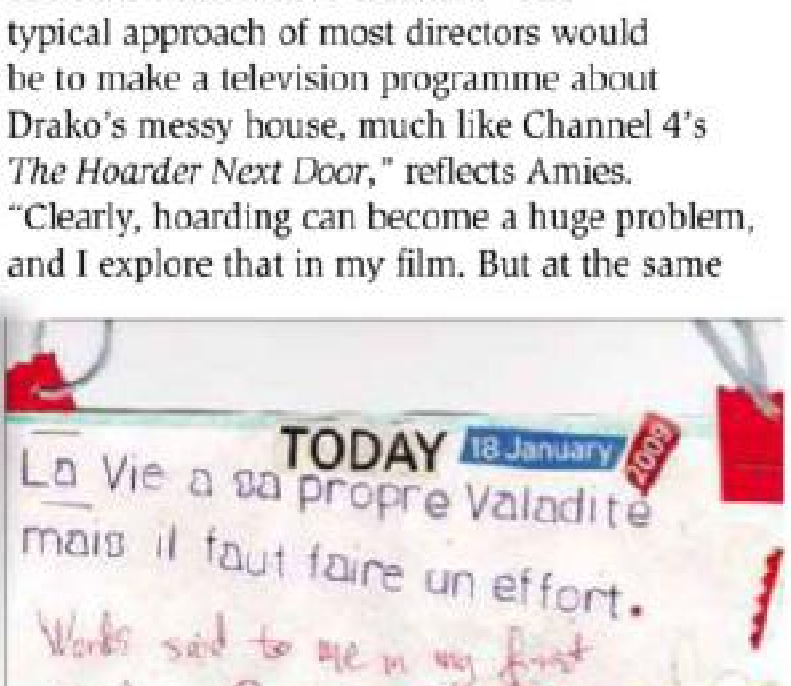
Drako's personality was described by friends as beautiful, weird and strange; and while his flat may have seemed chaotic to many people, it also captured these character traits. Through necessity, Drako had transformed his modest, suburban council flat into a genuine work of art; a crazy palace of the mind that was to be celebrated, not destroyed.

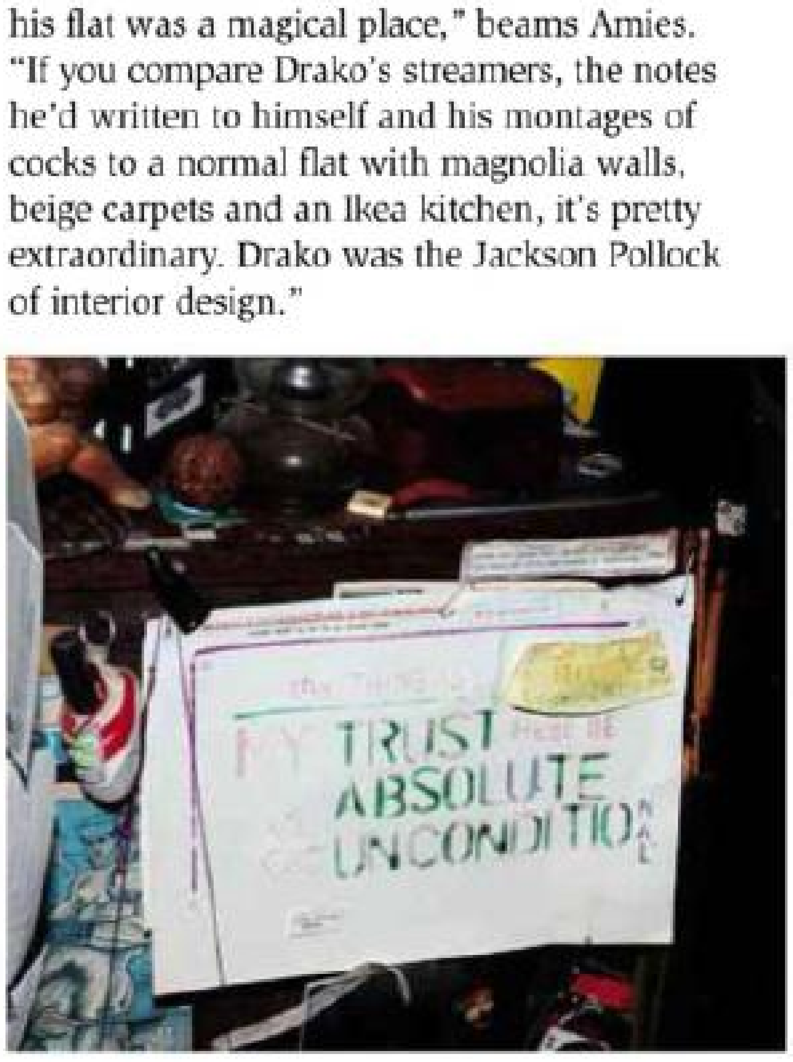
"When you divorced yourself from the discomfort of Drako's condition and gazed at the light streaming through the paper streamers, the bits of glass he had everywhere, and the cacti leaning against the window, his flat was a magical place," beams Amies. "If you compare Drako's streamers, the notes he'd written to himself and his montages of cocks to a normal flat with magnolia walls, beige carpets and an Ikea kitchen, it's pretty extraordinary. Drako was the Jackson Pollock of interior design."

GOD, FAITH AND UNCONDITIONAL TRUST

Drako was "around 72" when Amies started shooting *The Man Whose Mind Exploded*, and the director admits that making the film was often a challenge. But, surprisingly, this was less because Drako regularly forgot that there was a documentary being made about him and more because of his eccentricity and stubbornness, which made him a tough cookie to work with.

"Drako lived by his 'Trust Absolute Unconditional' mantra that was inked onto his arm, meaning that he would trust everyone," says Amies. "That was convenient for me because he'd never question what I was doing. But it also meant he would open the door to *anyone* and let them in. To friends and family who were concerned about his welfare, that was a great worry. But I like to think that →


TODAY
18 January
2009
La Vie a sa propre Valadité
mais il faut faire un effort.
Words said to me in my first 40 days Coma
TRUST ABSOLUTE UNCONDITIONAL
Three words said to me in my second 40 days Coma


MY TRUST
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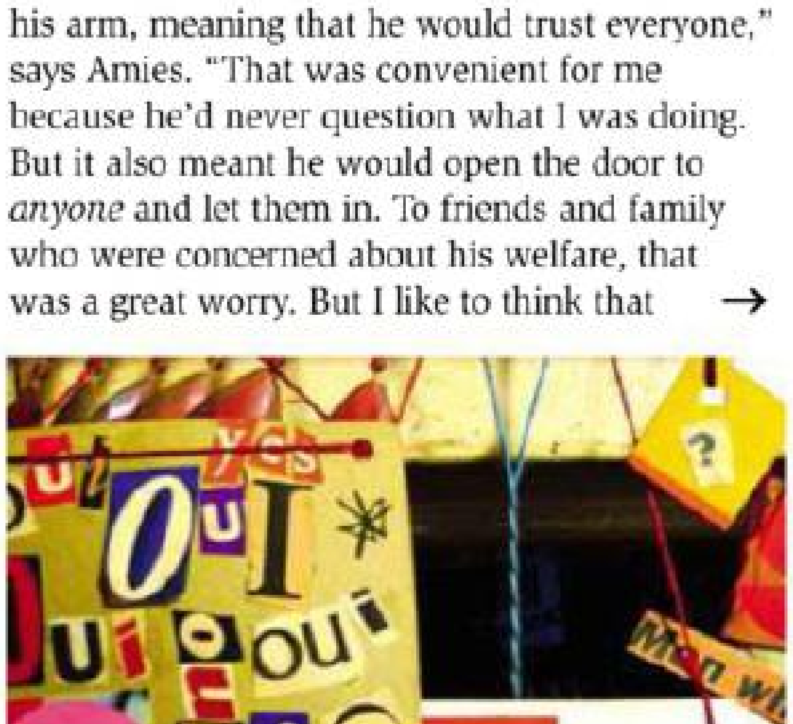
Oui
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WHO
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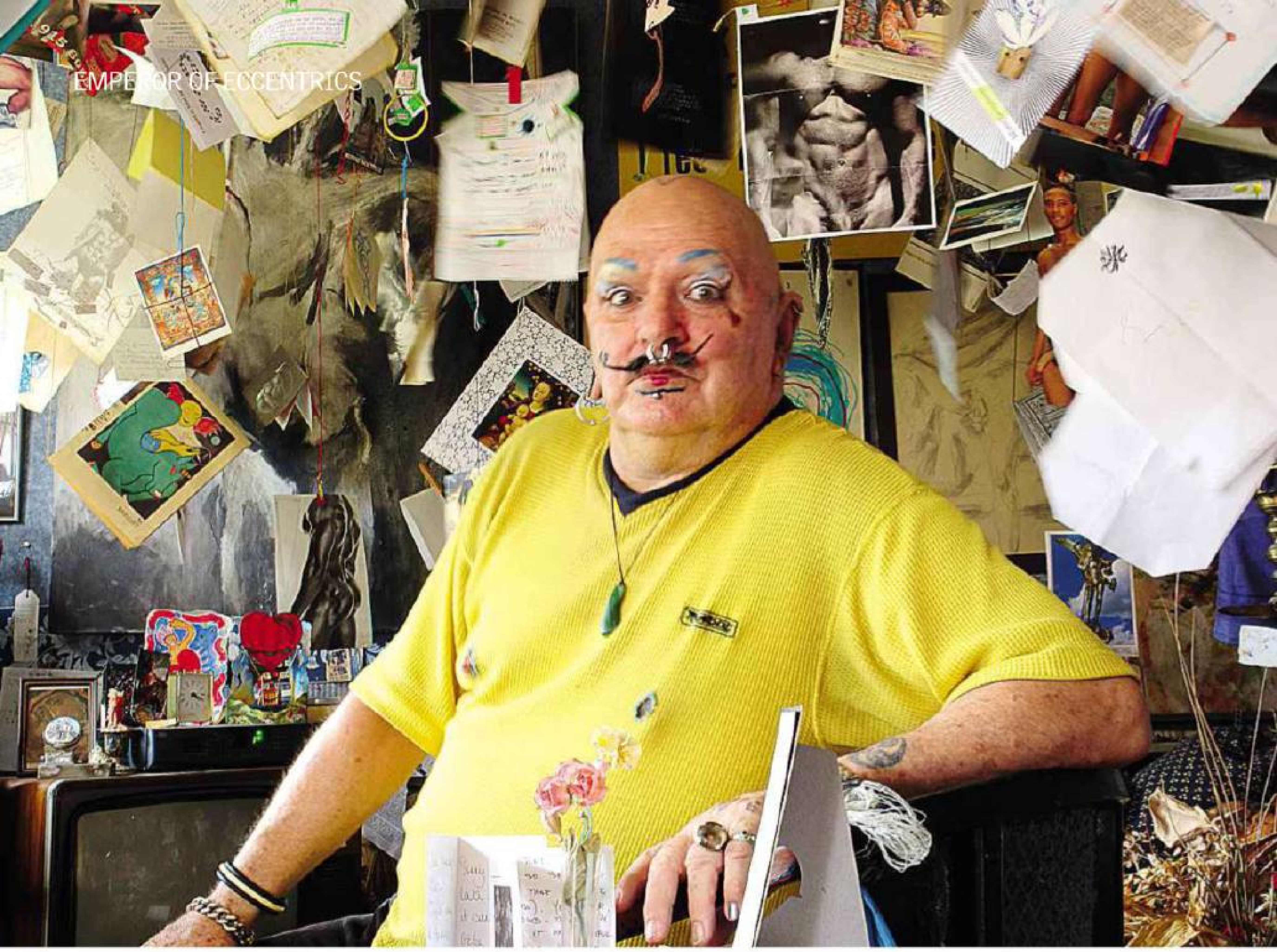

> "DRAKO WASN'T A DIRTY OLD MAN. HE SIMPLY CONTINUED TO BE HIMSELF THROUGH ALL PERIODS OF HIS LIFE, EVEN WHEN EXPERIENCING DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES"

because of his faith in a benevolent universe, the universe was benevolent towards him."

Although Drako's flat was awash with pornographic images and openly celebrated pleasures of the flesh, he was paradoxically a deeply spiritual man. Alongside swinging male genitalia, religious iconography was a common feature in Drako's mind map, and he made no secret of his faith in a Christian God.

Those who knew Drako believe that he experienced some kind of spiritual agency during his enforced slumber. Family members claim that the first words he spoke after he woke from his second coma were phrases that he'd never said – and possibly never even heard – before, including the aforementioned 'Trust Absolute Unconditional'. The second was 'La vie a sa propre validité mais il faut faire un effort', which translates as 'life has its own validity but one must make an effort'.

"From his own point of view, Drako had a relationship with God" says Amies. "In the film he refers to having total faith in the Almighty. Sometimes Drako would be explicitly Christian, and at other times he'd speak in a less traditional way about spirituality. I'm an atheist, but making the film changed my understanding of faith significantly. The point of film-making is to venture out with a fistful of questions and return with answers. TV is too often about imposing your script on reality. But it's far more interesting to come back bruised, but with a different opinion of the universe. And that's definitely what happened to me with Drako."

THE LAST OF THE GREAT ECCENTRICS

Stepping into Drako's mind in *The Man Whose Mind Exploded* is a moving and fascinating experience. As sad as it is warming, as funny as it is gritty, and as interesting as it is disturbing, the film is a wonderful celebration of a life less ordinary, and a documentary we urge all *Bizarre* readers to see.

As Amies points out, a true eccentric is someone who isn't aware of their eccentricity; they just can't help being themselves. And whether that involved unsettling people with body piercings in the 1980s, or introducing himself to Salvador Dalí while the surrealist masturbated over girls in a swimming pool – one of Drako's favourite anecdotes – that's exactly what Drako Zarhazar always was: himself. Complete with a cape, blue eyebrows, waxed moustache, and tattooed penis...

"Drako was a difficult person to have a relationship with because of his brain damage, but he was hugely inspiring in the way he chose to be himself," concludes Amies. "It's one thing to wear outrageous clothes when you're 19 – but to wander around in your late 70s, not having any idea where you were three minutes earlier, and dressed how he was... that took real guts!"

The Man Whose Mind Exploded is being screened in all Picturehouse cinemas as part of their Discover Tuesdays slot from 1 July (take a trip to PictureHouses.co.uk/cinema/Cameo_Picturehouse/Picturehouse_Recommends/Discover_Tuesdays to find out more). The film will also be featured in a week-long run at the Ritzy Brixton and Picturehouse Brighton. After that, *The Man Whose Mind Exploded* will be available via iTunes and other download sites. For more visit TheManWhoseMindExploded.com, Tobyamies.com, and #tmwme and #tobyamies on Twitter

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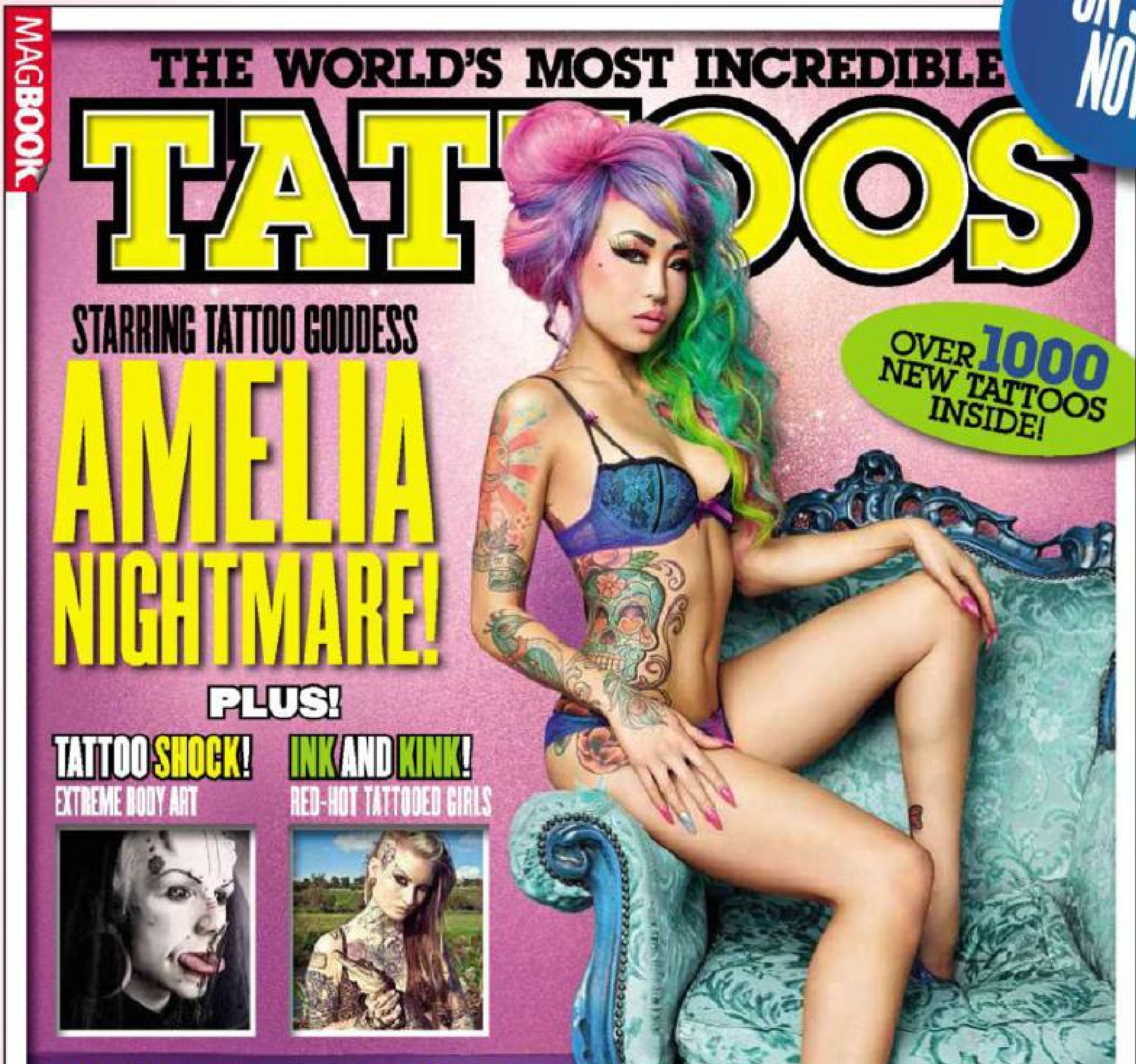
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& BODY LOV

Grappling with prejudice, body-slamming preconceptions and promoting body positivity, **Cat Pettus'** *Lucha Diabolica* brings power to the female. Olé!

PICTURES
CAT PETTUS / KAT ATTACK PHOTOGRAPHY / LUCHADIABOLICA.COM /

Cat Pettus of Kat Attack Photography has been celebrating the female form for over 15 years. In her latest project, *Lucha Diabolica: Boobs, Masks, Mayhem*, the Californian snapper photographed women of all shapes, ages and backgrounds to shatter outdated ideas about what makes the female body beautiful. And why did she shoot her models in flamboyant Mexican wrestling masks? Because Lucha Libre rocks, that's why. *Bizarre* approves on all levels…

Tell us more about *Lucha Diabolica*…

It's a series of photographs designed to promote body positivity. I've always felt different because I was curvier than most girls you'd see in the media, or even those in my home town – but when I was 12-years-old I was introduced to punk rock culture and discovered many confident, 'out there' women who inspired me to love myself. And because I've always enjoyed photographing women, I decided to show that all females – regardless of age, weight or colour – are beautiful… and kick ass!

Who were your punk idols growing up?

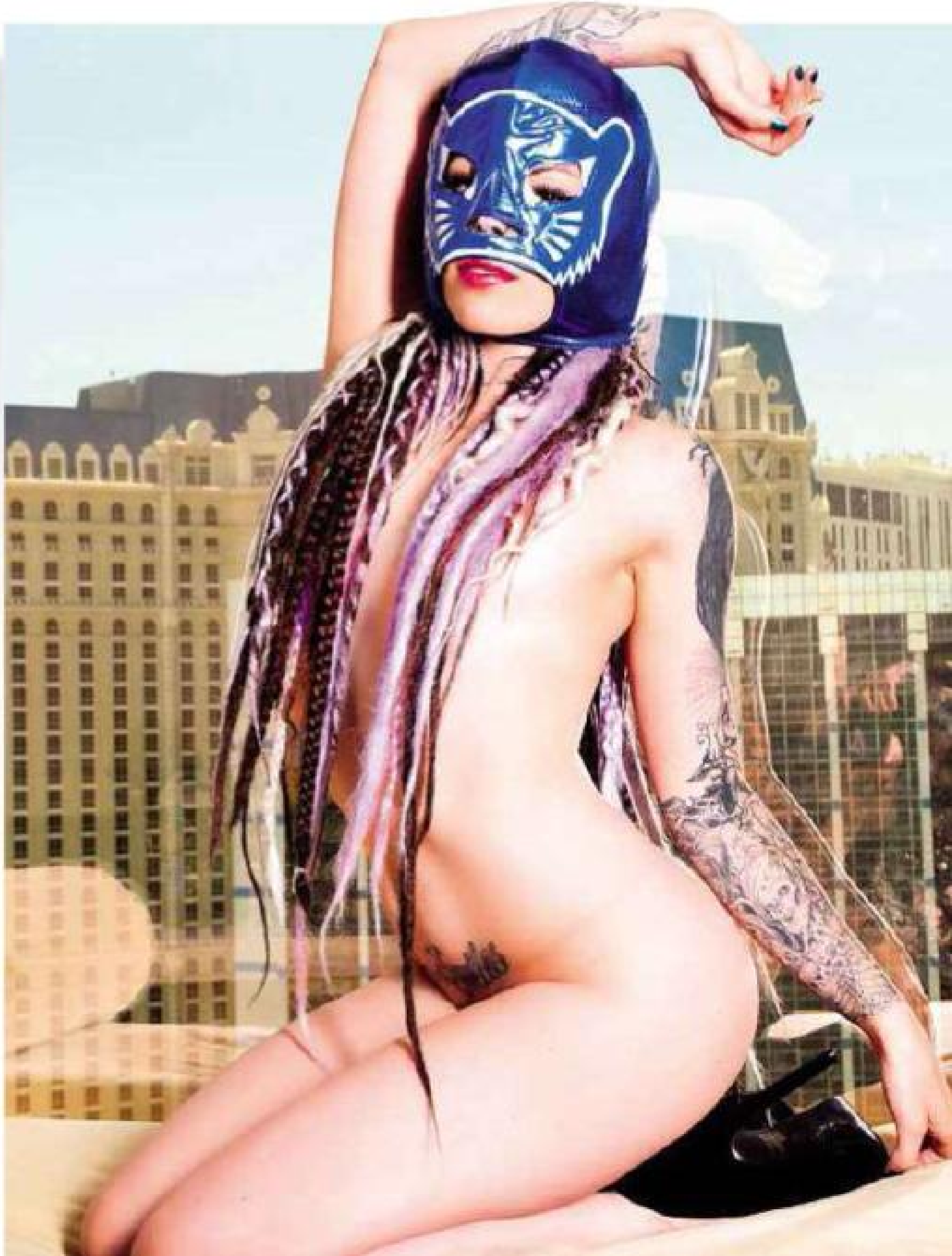
I looked up to Kathleen Hanna from Bikini Kill and Joan Jett, but my mother was my number one influence as she was an independent single mum who busted her ass working, but still spent time with me. She always supported my love for music and photography, bought me my first camera, and wasn't even (that) mad when I got suspended from →

IEM
E

"I PHOTOGRAPHED A FEW **PREGNANT WOMEN** BECAUSE I WANTED TO SHOW THAT, EVEN WHEN CARRYING A BABY, A WOMAN IS JUST AS SEXY..."

Classy
Lady

“A FEW MODELS SAID SHOOTING FOR *LUCHA DIABOLICA* INSPIRED THEM TO FEEL MORE CONFIDENT NAKED, AND THEIR SEX LIVES IMPROVED AS A RESULT”

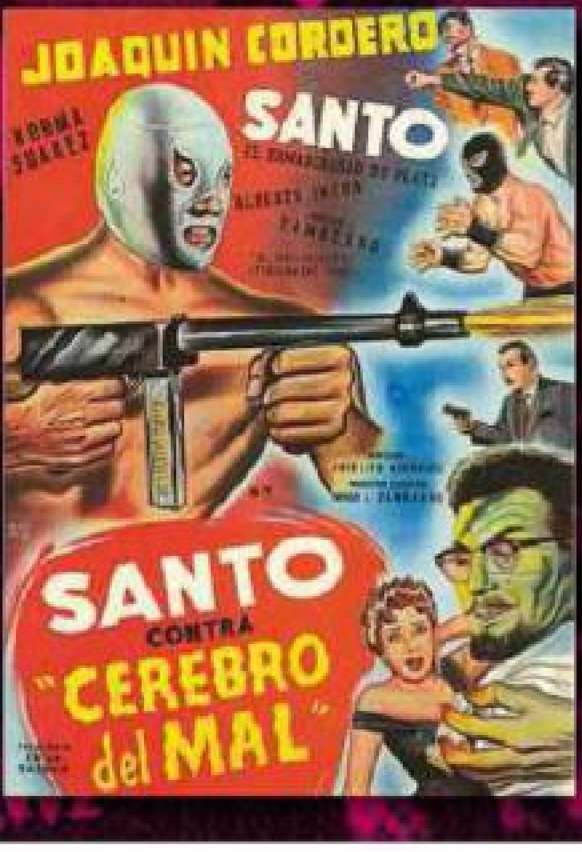


LUCHA LOCO!

Here at *Bizarre*, what we love most about Lucha Libre is the trashy Mexican B-movies the sport inspired. Check out these camp classics...

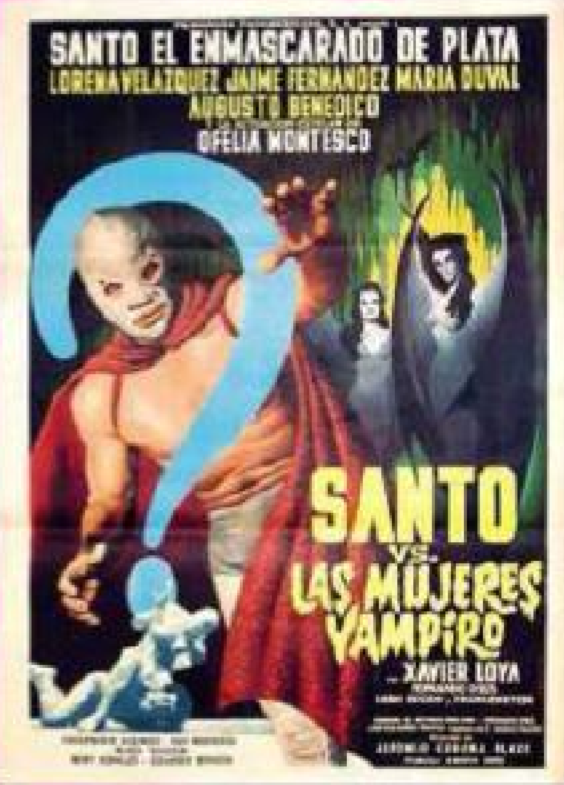
SANTO CONTRA CEREBRO DEL MAL (1961)

The biggest name to ever rock Mexican wrestling was Santo – but as the legendary grappler was passionate about the sport, he initially shunned the opportunity to become one of Mexico's biggest movie stars. However, Santo eventually gave in to pressure from his fans, and *Santo Contra Cerebro Del Mal* became his first big screen appearance. In the film, Santo plays a police agent who wears a mask to disguise his identity – and while it isn't a patch on later Lucha Libre movies, *Cerebro Del Mal* is still a fine debut for the man in the silver mask.



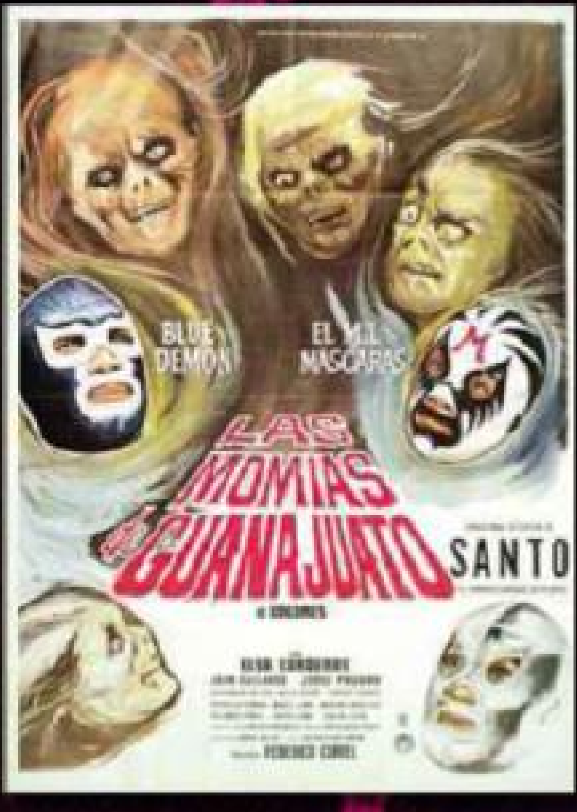
SANTO VS LAS MUJERES VAMPIRO (1962)

When Mexican wrestling movies collided with horror, it gave birth to one of the most thrilling subgenres in B-movie history. In this delicious flick – which translates as *Santo Vs The Vampire Woman* – our masked hero is recruited by a professor to protect his daughter from vampires, who are intent on kidnapping the girl so that the devil can take her as his bride. *Las Mujeres Vampiro* was one of the first Lucha Libre movies to be screened outside Mexico, where the wrestling legend was often renamed Samson.


SANTO EL ENMASCARADO DE PLATA
LORENA VELAZQUEZ JAIME FERNANDEZ MARIA DUVAL
AUGUSTO BENEDICO
OFELIA MONTESCO
SANTO
VS.
LAS MUJERES VAMPIRO
XAVIER LOYA

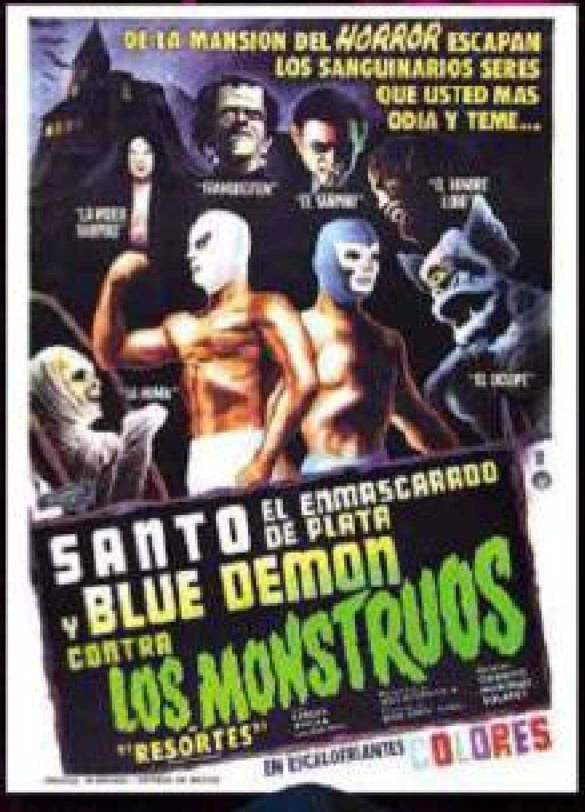
LAS MOMIAS DE GUANAJUATO (1972)

Inspired by the real-life mummies of Guanajuato – horrific desiccated corpses that were naturally preserved and have become Mexico's most macabre tourist attraction – this delirious horror flick also stars Blue Demon and Mil Mascaras, two other Mexican wrestlers who became legends in their homeland. Bizarrely, Santo doesn't appear until near the end of the movie, fuelling rumours that he was drafted in at the last minute to add a little extra star power to this tale of muscles and murderous mummies.



SANTO EL ENMASCARADO DE PLATA Y BLUE DEMON CONTRA LOS MONSTRUOS (1970)

Santo And Blue Demon Against The Monsters is *Bizarre*'s favourite Lucha Libre movie of all time. Actually, fuck it... it's our *favourite movie* of all time! Terrible acting, awful monsters and shoddy editing that sees key scenes randomly switching between night and day make this one of the most joyous B-movies of all time, and a must-see for any fan of strange cinema. And there's even time for a cheesy song and dance number. A *Bizarre* classic!


DE LA MANSION DEL HORROR ESCAPAN LOS SANGUINARIOS SERES QUE USTED MAS ODIA Y TEME...
SANTO EL ENMASCARADO DE PLATA
Y BLUE DEMON
CONTRA
LOS MONSTRUOS
"RESORTES"
EN EXCELENTES COLORES

igh school for developing naked pictures in photo class! To this day she collects my prints and magazines that have published my work.

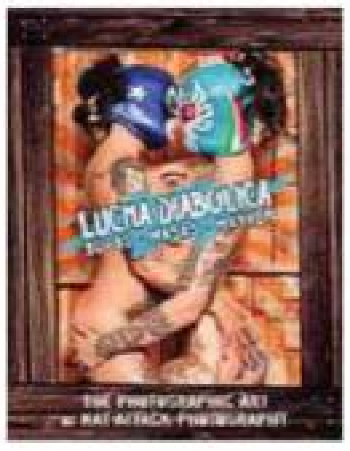
Why did you use Mexican wrestling masks?
As I grew up in California and had many friends from Mexico, I've always been infatuated with Mexican culture. And Lucha Libre wrestling has always captured my imagination. When I was brainstorming my project on body positivity I decided I wanted my models to cover their faces, and that's when I decided to incorporate my love for Lucha Libre by having them wear Luchadora masks. The book has nothing to do with wrestling. Instead, I wanted to show that all women are beautiful, confident and strong, no matter what they look like.

We love how you shot models of all shapes and sizes for *Lucha Diabolica*...
Everyone in the book has a different body, just as women do in the real world. I also photographed models of different cultures and ages, and even a few pregnant women because I know first-hand that you can feel fat or ugly when you're pregnant. I wanted to prove that, even when pregnant, a woman can be just as sexy, if not more so.

Who were the models you shot?
I photographed everyone from famous tattoo models to women who'd never been in front of a camera before. I only use my models' first names in the book, and others used pseudonyms. Some women were initially shy about appearing in the book, but when they learned more about the concept they literally started dropping their clothes before I'd even got my camera ready! For many of my models, being photographed was an empowering experience. A few of the women told me that modelling for this book inspired them to feel more confident naked and, subsequently, their sex lives improved.

Has there been a temptation to shoot a similar project with male models?
No – female beauty is something that I've always gravitated towards, and that's what I'm most passionate about showcasing. Women often lack body confidence, so promoting positivity and self-love is what's most important to me. In a world where nobody feels perfect, this project feels like a tiny step in the right direction to helping women have a better frame of mind.

What are your plans for *Lucha Diabolica*?
There's been so much interest in the project that I've decided to produce a series of books. There will only be 500 copies of the first book, but there will also be T-shirts, calendars and posters.



LucaDiabolica.com;
Instagram: Katattackphoto →

"I WANTED TO SHOW THAT ALL FEMALES, REGARDLESS OF AGE, WEIGHT OR COLOUR, ARE BEAUTIFUL AND KICK ASS!"

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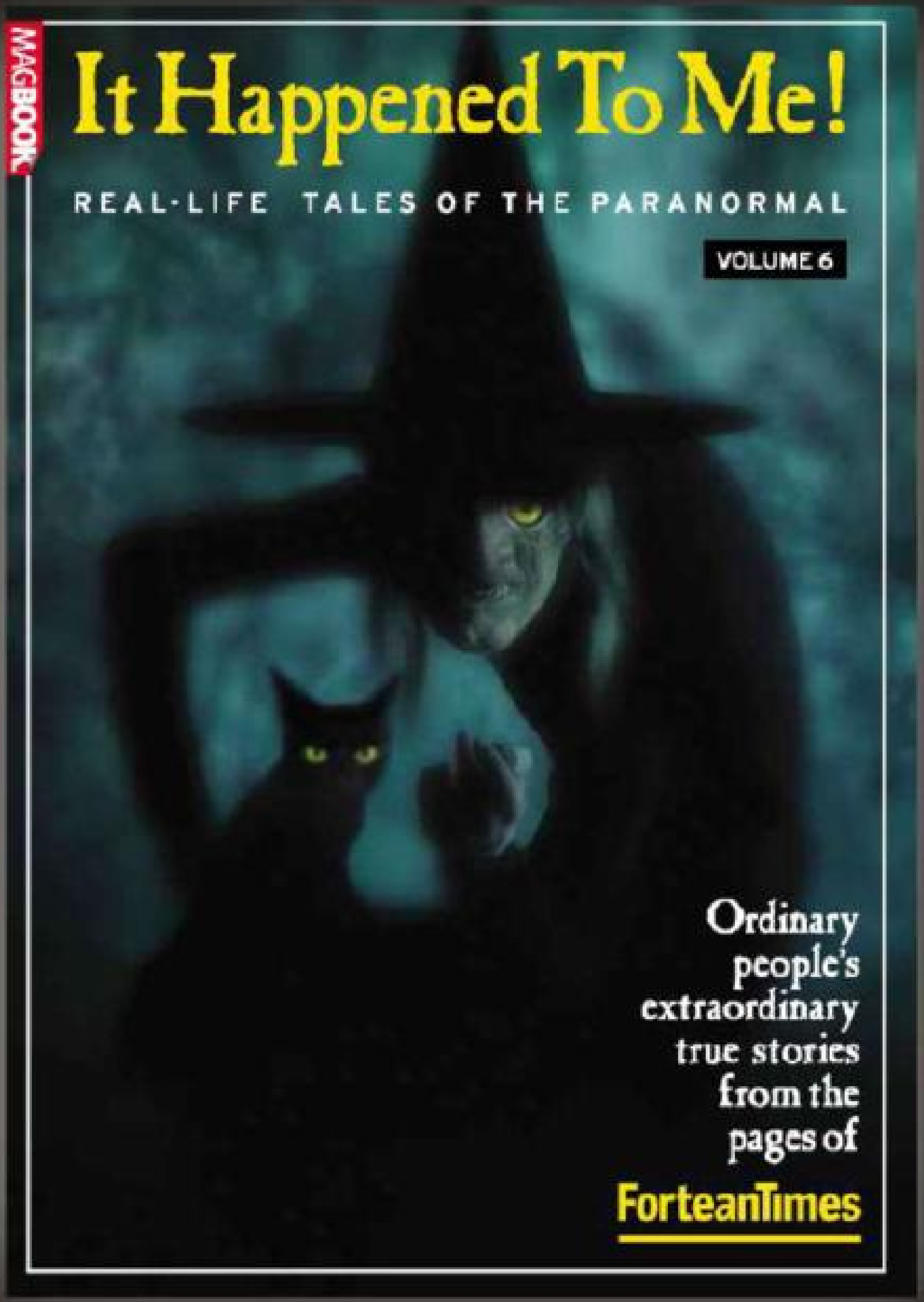
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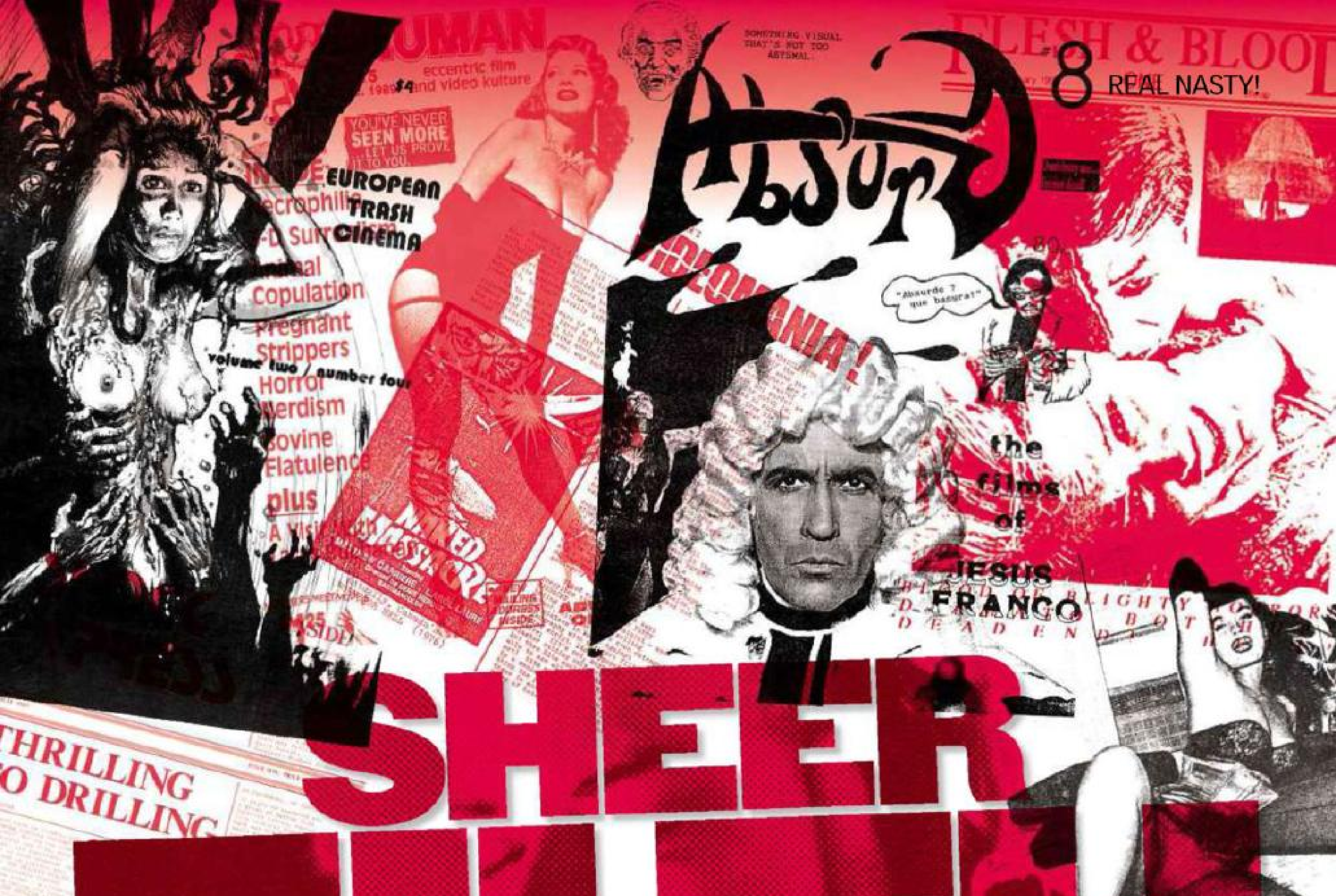
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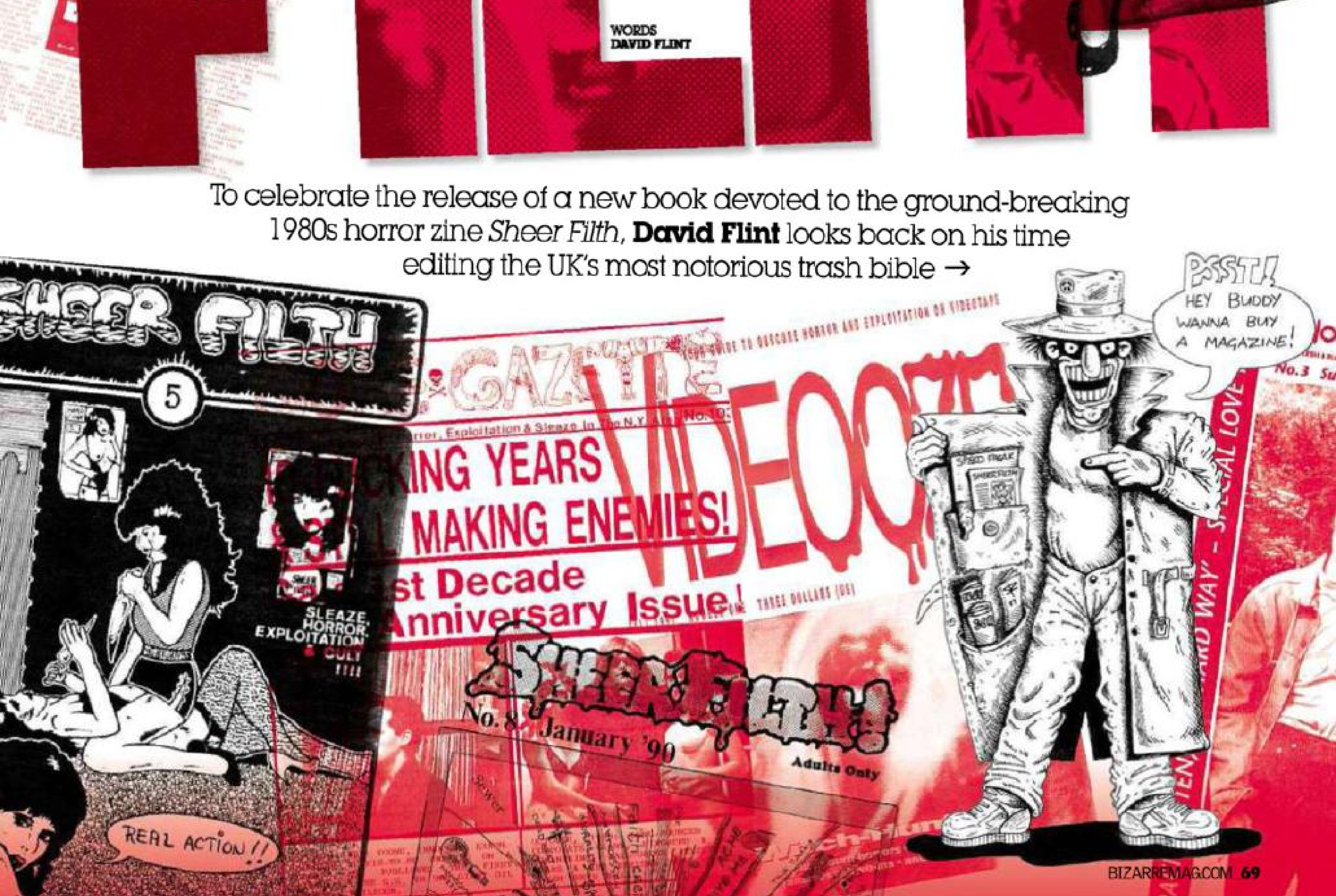
WORDS
DAVID FLINT

To celebrate the release of a new book devoted to the ground-breaking 1980s horror zine *Sheer Filth*, **David Flint** looks back on his time editing the UK's most notorious trash bible →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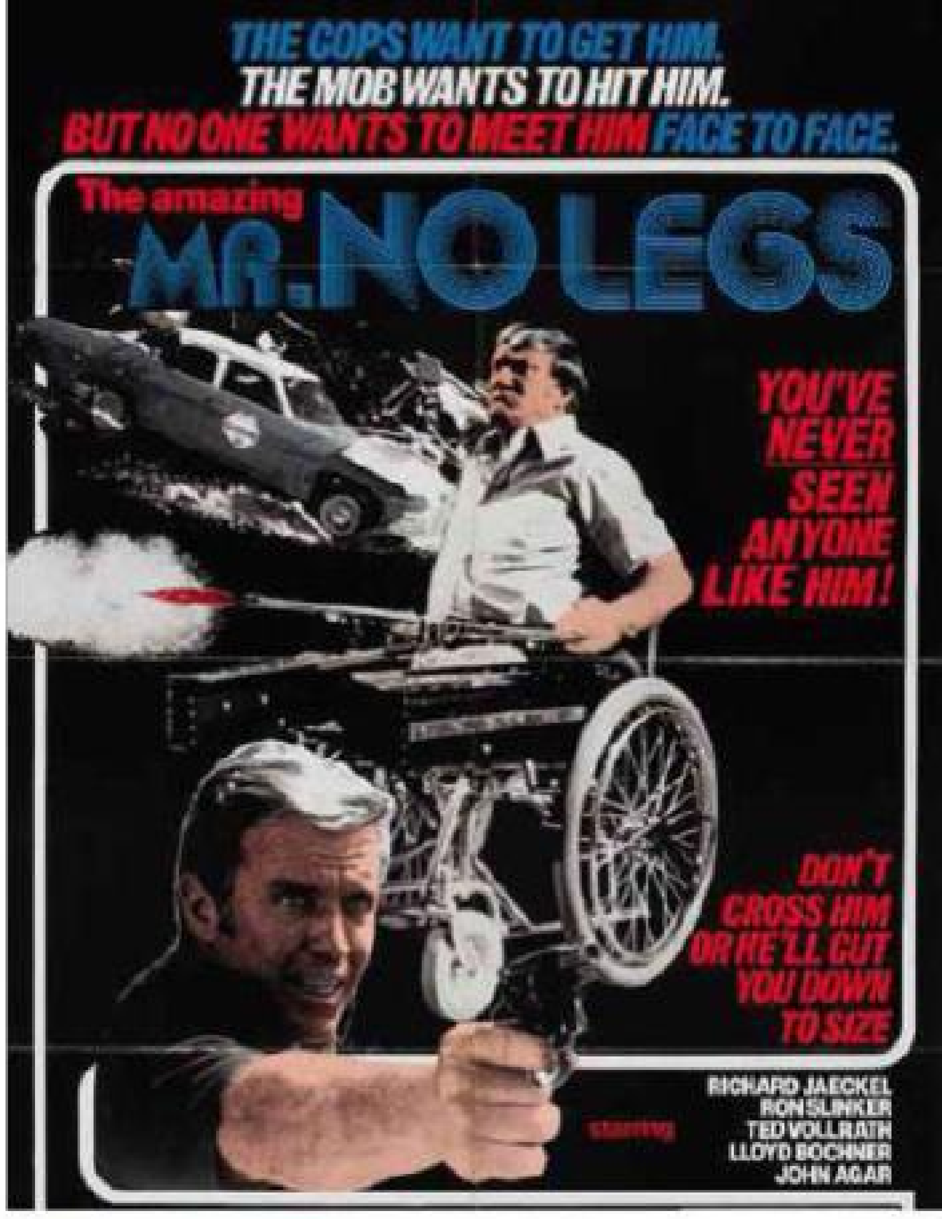

THE COPS WANT TO GET HIM.
THE MOB WANTS TO HIT HIM.
BUT NO ONE WANTS TO MEET HIM FACE TO FACE.
The amazing
MR. NO LEGS
YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE LIKE HIM!
DON'T CROSS HIM OR HE'LL CUT YOU DOWN TO SIZE
starring
RICHARD JAECKEL
RON SLINKER
TED VOLLRATH
LLOYD BOCHNER
JOHN AGAR

We're living in strange and censorial times. Everywhere you look there's someone trying to ban something. A cabal of religious, moralising right-wingers and misguided left-wingers are waging war on internet porn, lads' mags, strip clubs, sex shops, online freedom and a dozen other causes. It's a grim period during which our hard-fought-for freedoms are being stripped away, usually in the name of protecting women or children (two groups that are generalised as being equally vulnerable and soft-headed by confused campaigners).

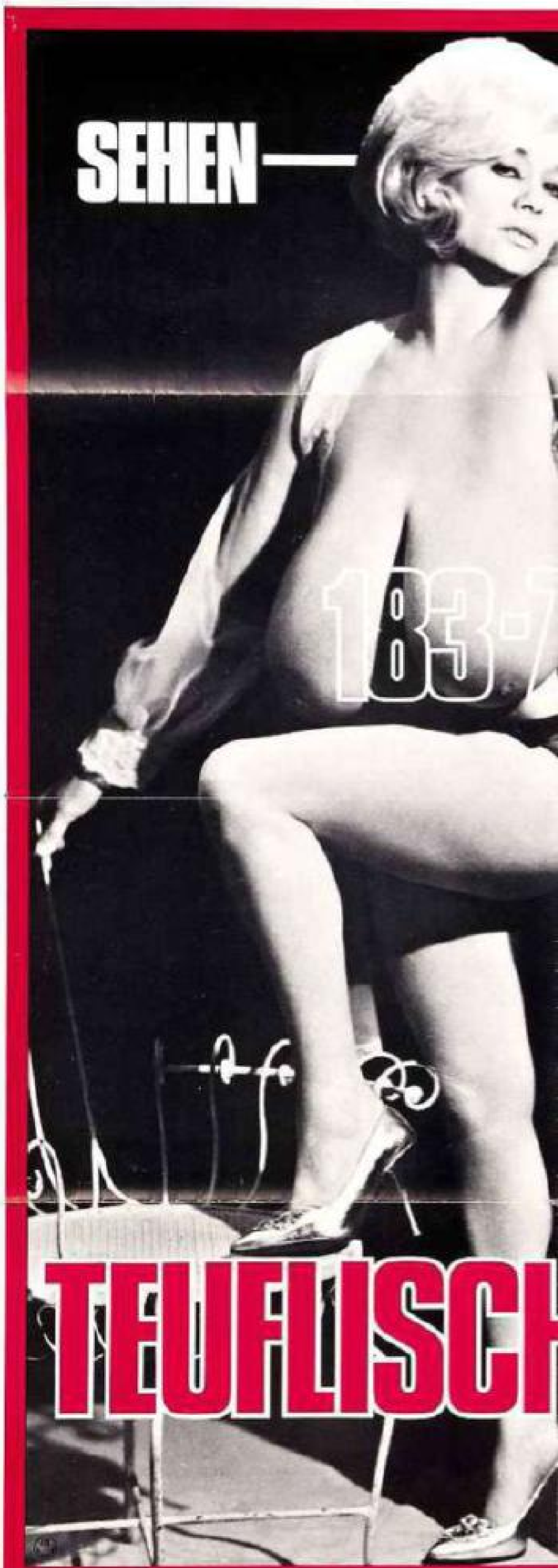
Of course, some of us have seen all this before. The year 2014 feels a lot like 1984, when a right-wing government – egged on by extremist opposition – was doggedly rolling backwards in an effort to reinstate Victorian values. So you can take solace in the fact that, eventually, it'll all go too far and a backlash – small at first, but soon growing pace – will begin.

In the 1980s, the first sign of a backlash came in the sudden rise of horror and exploitation movie zines, of which my own, *Sheer Filth*, was a leading light. Cult movie fans, who'd been demonised and demoralised throughout the 1980s thanks to the 'video nasty' scare, police raids, increased censorship and shock tabloid headlines, began to fight back in the only way they could – by forming their own communities and social groups. Zines were an essential component of this; a visible hub of information in a pre-internet age where fans could read about the weirdest, wildest films that the powers that be didn't want them to see, and where people could interact, make friends and, yes, trade tapes if they were so inclined.

GORE GALORE

Movie zines were nothing new in 1987 but, until that time, they seemed an impossible dream for those of us who didn't have contacts with film-makers, top writers or thousands to spend on printing. But the DIY ethos of punk zines such as *Sniffin' Glue* soon spread to the movie world, and by the mid-1980s there were several ultra-cheap US zines to choose from, some as simple as a single sheet of paper. Titles such as *Gore Gazette*, *Splatter Times*, *Sleazoid Express*,

SALON KITTY


SEHEN—
183-
TEUFLISCH

no. 15
Nov-Dec. 1989
eccentric film
and video kulture
YOU'VE NEVER
SEEN MORE
..LET US PROVE
IT TO YOU.
INSIDE:
the
films
of

Video Drive In and *Subhuman* weren't just cheap to produce – they were also edgy, opinionated, and a world away from the mainstream horror magazine scene that tended to err on the side of respectability, and maintained the belief that horror fans should be more interested in science-fiction than exploitation cinema (early issues of *Fangoria* featured the likes of *Star Trek* and *The Empire Strikes Back* as cover features). This new generation of zines revelled in sex and violence, sleaze and trash, and had no time for glossy space operas.

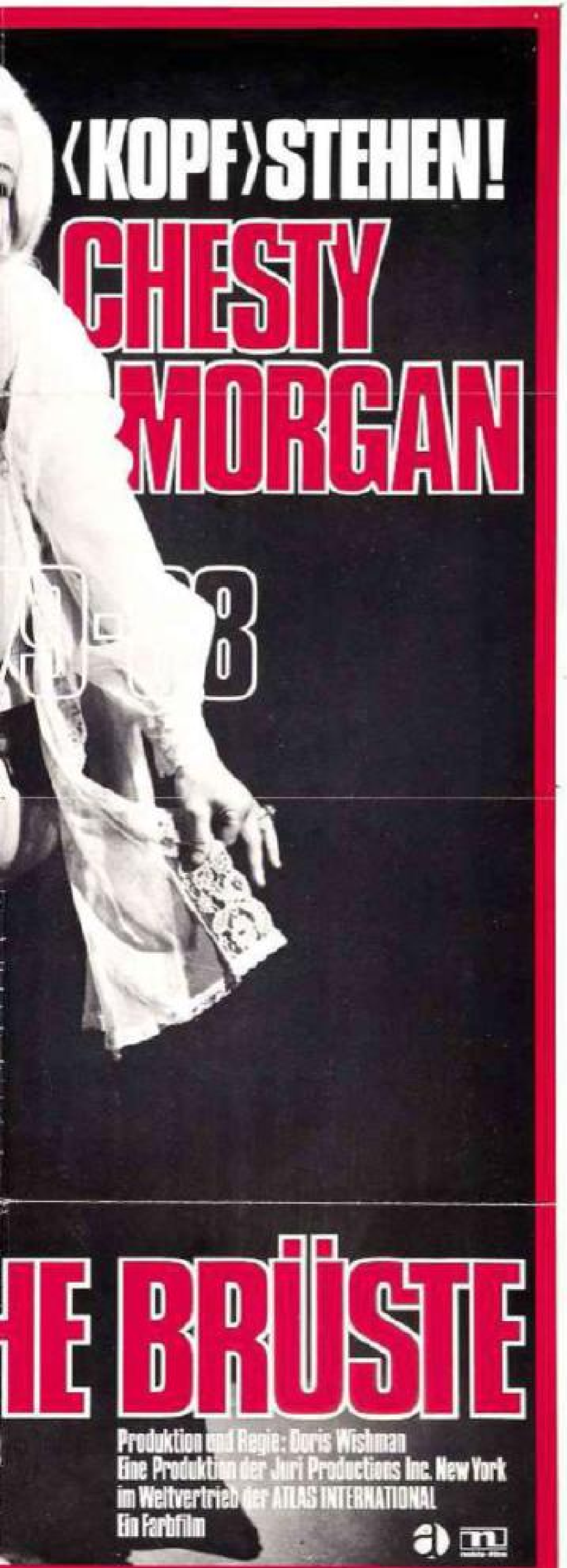
PULP AND BONDAGE

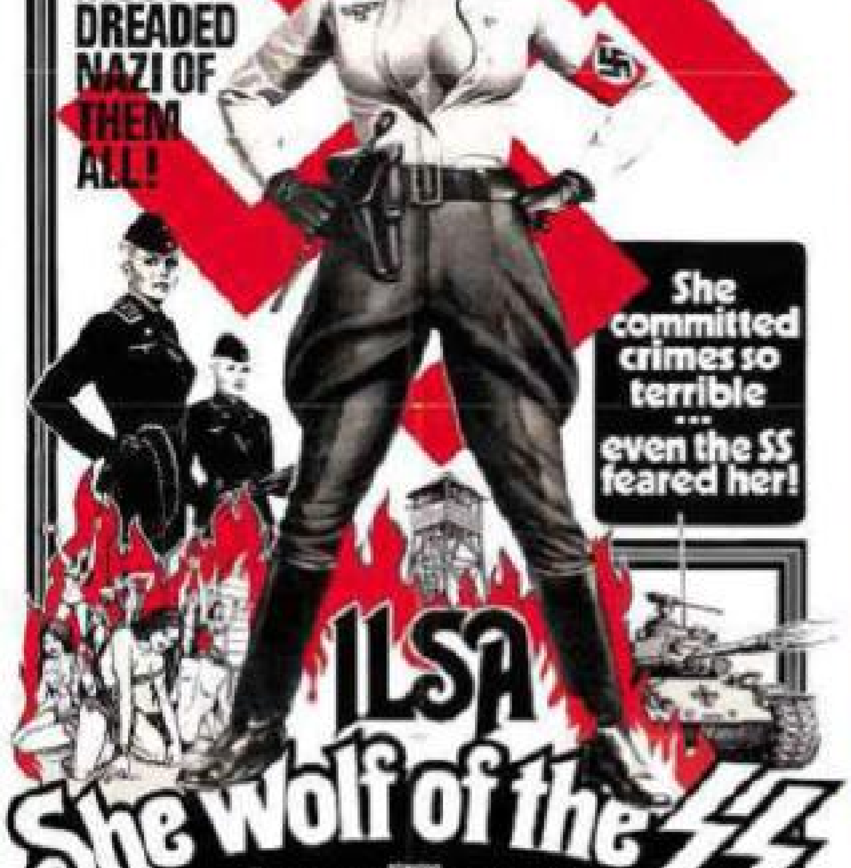
Seeing these American zines was a revelation, and I vowed produce my own. Most British horror zines that emerged around the time were still fixated on the video nasties, and it seemed no zine was complete without a 'Nasty Checklist'. But that didn't interest me. I figured that, if everyone else was doing that, I should go in a different direction. And much as I loved some of the nasties, it was other stuff that fascinated me; oddball obscurities such as *The Amazing Mr No Legs*, *Death Bed: The Bed That Eats* and *Mutant Sexual Behaviour*, along with porn flicks, 1950s B-movies, films by bondage king and queen Irving Klaw and Bettie Page, and old pulp fiction books unearthed in second-hand shops. This was the sort of thing I wanted to write about, and I assumed that other people would want to read about it too.

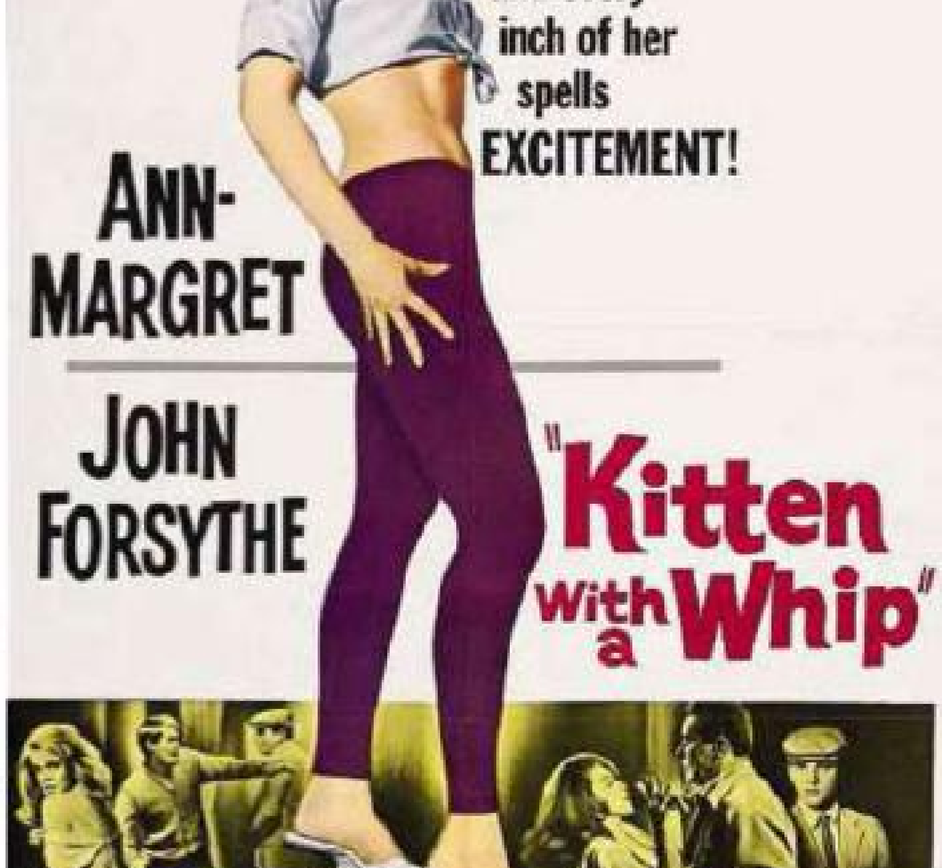
Starting a zine in the 1980s was a leap into the unknown. I had a typewriter and a few images culled from magazines and newspapers, but no idea about layout, printing or distribution. But I blundered through.

Midway through the production of the first 12-page, A5 issue, I discovered that you could take a sheet of paper to a photocopy shop and have it reduced in size… who knew? This doubled the amount of material I could squeeze into an issue. Free copying facilities at the government Job Club that unemployed →

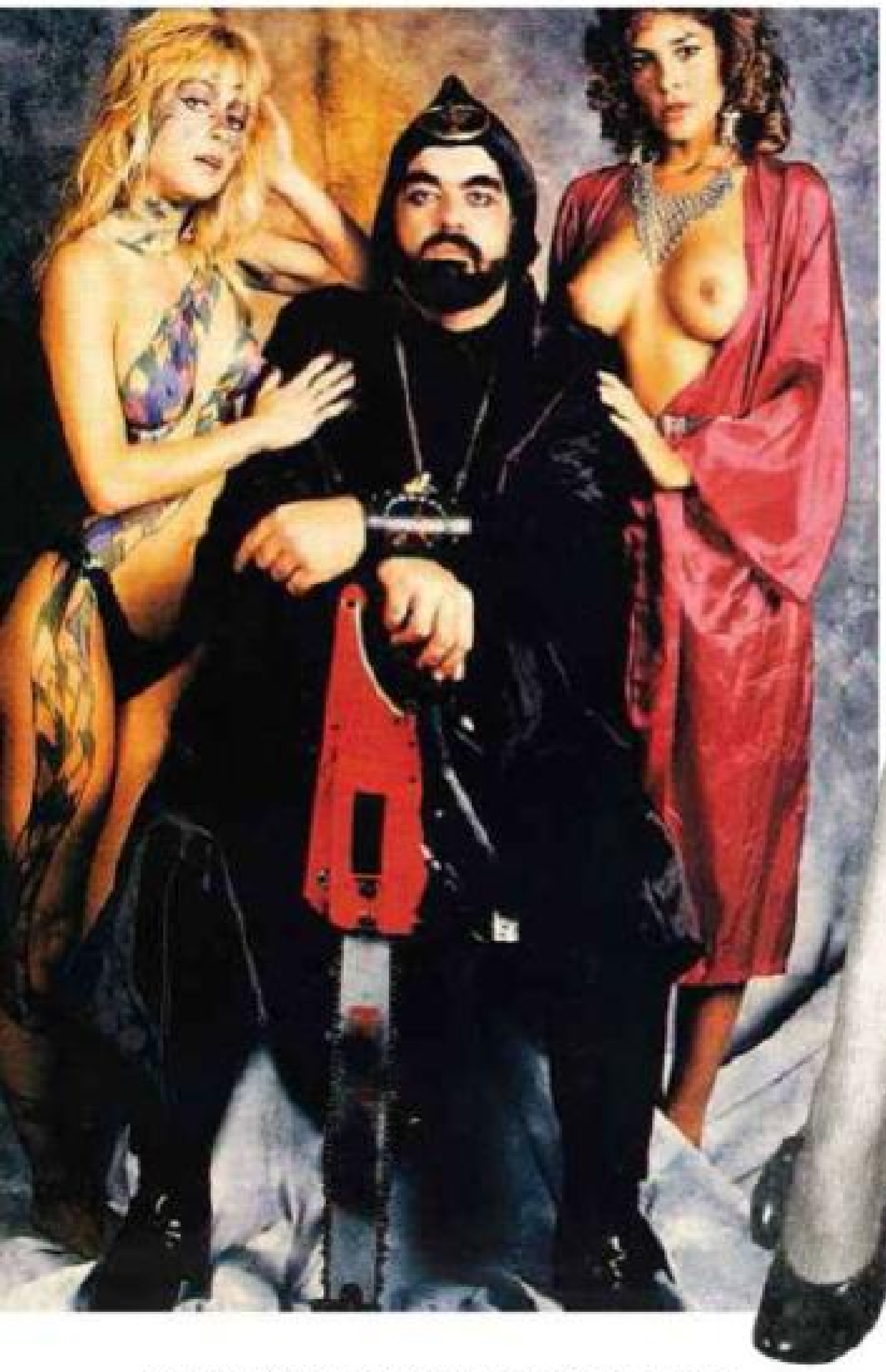
> **"I WAS FASCINATED BY *MUTANT SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR* AND *THE AMAZING MR NO LEGS*"**

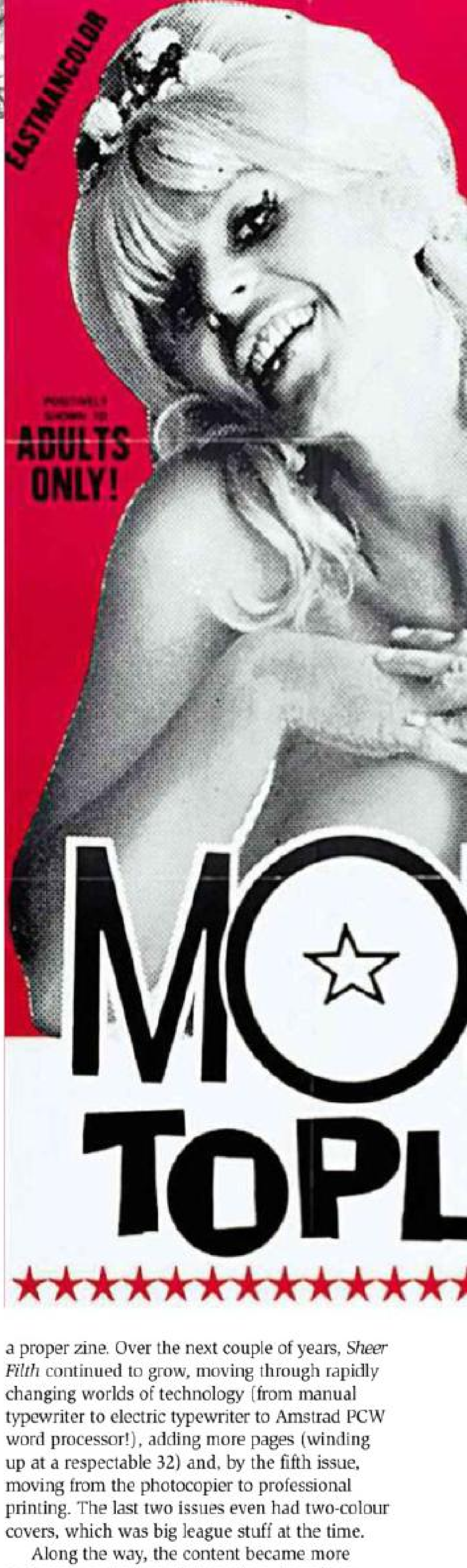

(KOPF)STEHEN!
CHESTY
MORGAN
HE BRÜSTE
Produktion und Regie: Doris Wishman
Eine Produktion der Juri Productions Inc. New York
im Weltvertrieb der ATLAS INTERNATIONAL
Ein Farbfilm


A DIFFERENT KIND OF X
THE MOST DREADED NAZI OF THEM ALL!
She committed crimes so terrible ... even the SS feared her!
ILSA
She Wolf of the SS
starring
DYANNE THORNE as ILSA
Directed by DON EDMONDS
Produced by HERMAN TRAEGER
WARNING: SOME MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY FIND CERTAIN SCENES IN THIS FILM OFFENSIVE AND SHOCKING – the Management


She's all out for kicks… and every inch of her spells EXCITEMENT!
ANN-MARGRET
JOHN FORSYTHE
"Kitten with a Whip"
PETER BROWN · PATRICIA BARRY
RICHARD ANDERSON
Screenplay by DOUGLAS HEYES
Directed by DOUGLAS HEYES

EUROP
TRAS
CINEM
CAFE FLESH
& THE ART
OF PORN
goodfellas





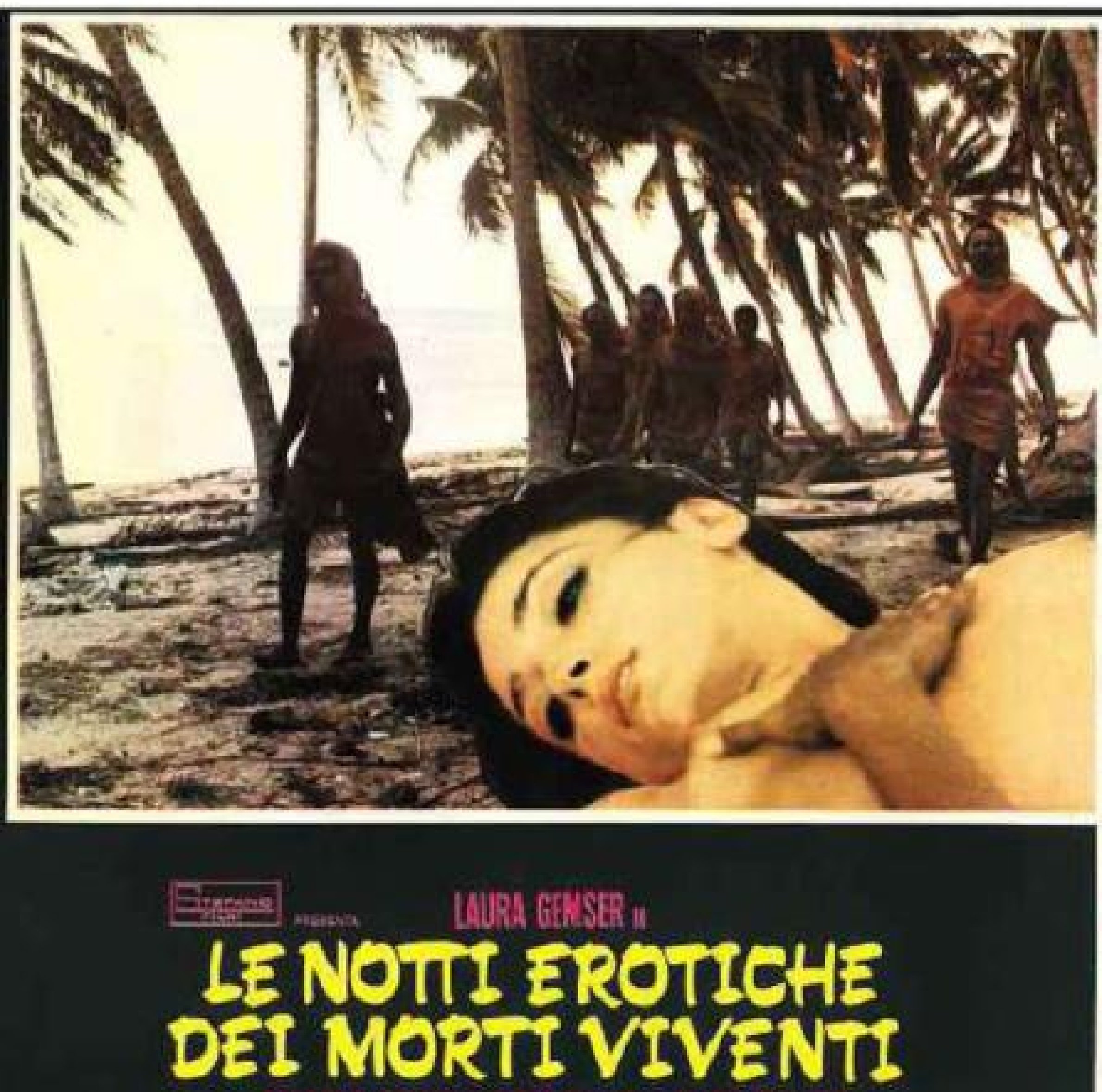
youths like myself were made to attend allowed me to grab illustrations from books and magazines without having to destroy them, and a shifty contact who owned a photocopier – and had been cheerfully bootlegging US zines – agreed to run off 100 copies at cost. A small ad at the back of *Video: The Magazine* – a mainstream video mag that had sympathy for horror fans – was my only promotion. But that was all I needed. Within a couple of days of the ad hitting the shelves, the orders – 50p plus stamp – were coming in. And not just orders. Other zines. Correspondence. Writing and artwork contributions. I was suddenly part of a global community, and it felt great.

WHEN PRINT WAS KING

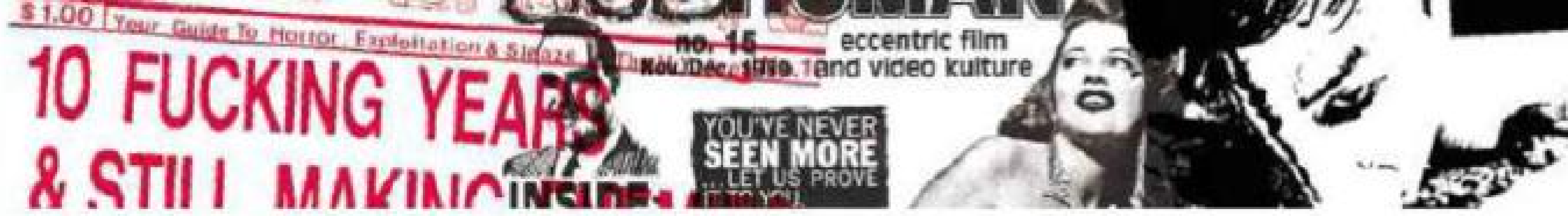
In an age when anyone can start a blog, where the most obscure films will have a dozen IMDb reviews, and where communication via social networks is easy, it's probably hard to understand how vital this scene was in the 1980s. But horror and sleaze movie fans were social pariahs at the time. The police would raid tape traders and video rental shops, and people *did* end up going to jail for selling uncensored or unapproved movies. Hardcore porn was still completely illegal. Publishing *Sheer Filth* was an act of rebellion against straight society, and the community that zines were at the forefront of was a vital one. And as the zines grew, so did the community. At the time *Sheer Filth* launched, this was a scattershot collection of movie buffs. But by the time it closed in 1990, the idea of a 'transgressive culture' movement was becoming a real thing.

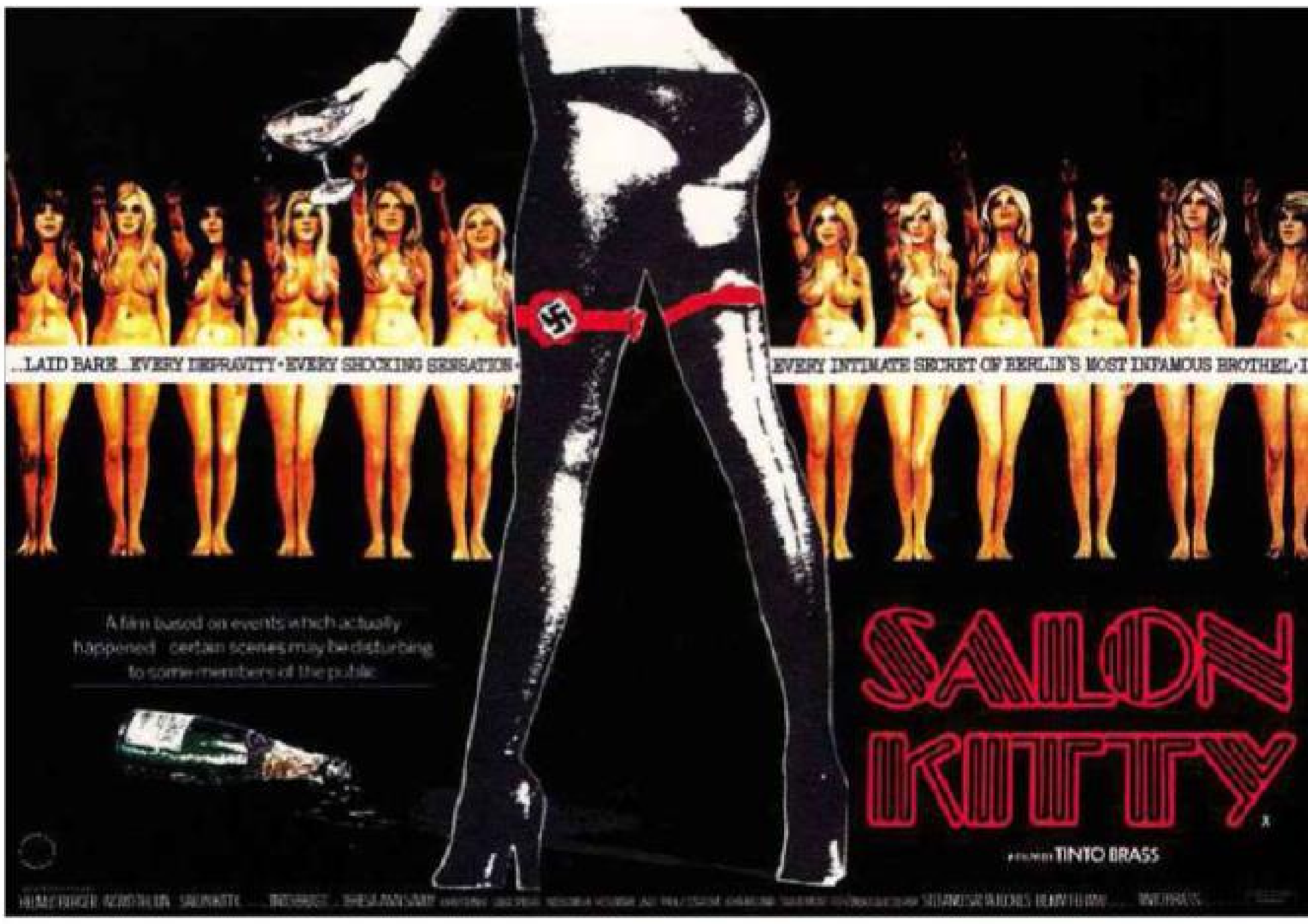
Once I knew what I was doing, *Sheer Filth* began to expand. The second issue grew to 20 pages and had a 500 copy run, produced by a local copy shop. It began to look like a proper zine. Over the next couple of years, *Sheer Filth* continued to grow, moving through rapidly changing worlds of technology (from manual typewriter to electric typewriter to Amstrad PCW word processor!), adding more pages (winding up at a respectable 32) and, by the fifth issue, moving from the photocopier to professional printing. The last two issues even had two-colour covers, which was big league stuff at the time.

Along the way, the content became more and more esoteric and interesting. As well as securing interviews with exploitation kingpins such as David F Friedman and Johnny Legend, the zine offered the first coverage of *Nekromantik*, Psychic TV's *First Transmission* and SPK's shocking *Despair*. It began to branch out into music – everything from Coil to *Las Vegas Grind* compilations – and performance art. The movie reviews also expanded to include some arthouse and odd mainstream titles, meaning you could read about everything from Pee-Wee Herman to the dour films of Robert Bresson,

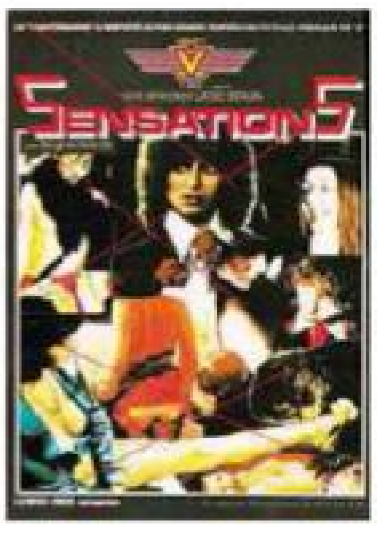


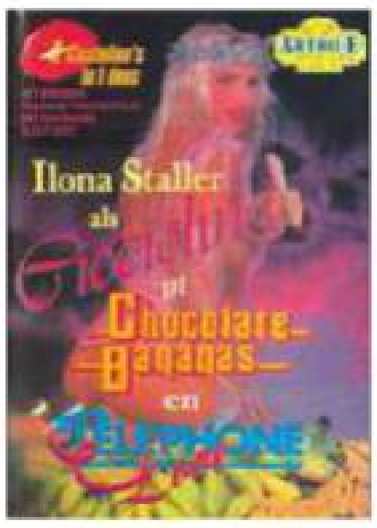
the "Topless"
DOCUMENTED IN
PLAYBOY
Esquire
LIFE
...BUT REALLY
REVEALED IN...
NDO
LESS

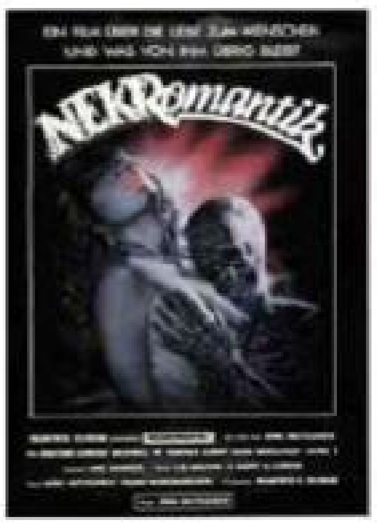

$1.00 Your Guide To Horror, Exploitation & Sleaze
10 FUCKING YEARS
& STILL MAKIN
no. 15
eccentric film and video kulture
YOU'VE NEVER SEEN MORE LET US PROVE


...LAID BARE...EVERY DEPRAVITY • EVERY SHOCKING SENSATION •
EVERY INTIMATE SECRET OF BERLIN'S MOST INFAMOUS BROTHEL •
A film based on events which actually happened · certain scenes may be disturbing to some members of the public
SALON KITTY
TINTO BRASS

"THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER APPEARED COMPLETELY NUDE!"
JAYNE MANSFIELD in PLAYBOY MAGAZINE
Promises! Promises!


SENSATIONS


Ilona Staller
als
Chocolate Bananas
en


NEKRomantik

"YOU WON'T FIND *SHOWER LUST* OR *NYMPHO SUBJUGATION* REVIEWS ANYWHERE ELSE!"

and the content became stronger and more considered. It never lost a sense of enthusiasm, but the writing was more intelligent and slick.

END OF THE FILTHY ROAD

By the end, *Sheer Filth* was one of the best zines out there. The quality of the writing, the variety of content and even the visual aesthetic were top notch. But, ironically, that's what killed it...

Sheer Filth had reached a stage where it needed to make a step into professionalism, and that step came with publisher Headpress, which I co-founded with David Kerekes and Dave Slater. I then produced the magazine *Divinity*, which was a glossy, 80-page transgressive culture bible. Returning to *Sheer Filth* was not an option after that, if only because the title tended to cause issues with stockists and PR companies.

But of everything I've done over the years, nothing seems to have had as much impact as *Sheer Filth*. Other publications may have out-sold it and out-influenced it, but *Sheer Filth* captured the imagination of a generation of zine readers. And while it seemed to have been forgotten by the wider world since its 1980s heyday, there was always a curious demand to see it back. And now it is.

The new FAB Press book *Sheer Filth* gathers together the bulk of the original content, plus some unseen material, and tidies it up without losing the essential zine feel. It feels authentic in the look, the feel and even the smell. And because *Sheer Filth* existed within its own little universe at the time, it's hardly dated at all.

There's material here you won't read about anywhere else – seriously, try to find a review of *Shower Lust* or *Nympho Subjugation* online. The new book emerges alongside a revival of interest in zine culture (*Xerox Ferox* offers an overview of the US scene, while Aussie zine *Fatal Visions* has also been compiled into a book), and I'd like to think there's still a market for old-school print zines, just as there is for vinyl records. Maybe now the book's out, it's time for a new edition of *Sheer Filth* to emerge...

Sheer Filth is available from all good book shops, or directly from Fabpress.com

Ink, NOT MINK
BE COMFORTABLE IN YOUR OWN SKIN,
AND LET ANIMALS KEEP THEIRS.
Sabina Kelley,
pin-up model & icon, for PETA

© Lesley Brown

DARK BLUE EMBROIDERED
GOWN: VIMPELOVA;
BLACK LEATHER SANDALS:
GIUSEPPE ZANOTTI

YOUR HOST NIGEL WINGROVE

Each month in *Bizarre*, Nigel Wingrove – founder of the horror film company Redemption Films and the Salvation Group, and creator of the online alternative female collective, Satanic Sluts – will be assaulting you with a series of subversive, fashioned-themed, eye-popping photos to bring to life a facet of alternative culture or to make the ordinary extraordinary! All are guaranteed to push your sick and twisted buttons.

This month Nigel is using rebellion as a springboard for his subversive take on the world of fashion. Find out more about Nigel and his work at **Salvation-films.com** and **Nigelwingrove.com**

WORDS, CONCEPT AND ART DIRECTION **NIGEL WINGROVE**
PHOTOGRAPHY **CHRIS BELL (CHRISBELLPHOTOGALLERY.COM)**
MODELS **GEORGIA AND LILY AT SUGARBABES (SUGARBABES.COM)**
STYLIST **OLGA STARKY**
HAIR AND MAKE-UP **SILVIA SACCINTO (SILVIASACCINTOMAKEUP.YOLASITE.COM)**
PROPS AND SPECIALIST RETOUCHING **DAVID PALSER**

Salvation Visual Assault #6

REBEL YELL! BLOOD ON THE STREETS

From the bloody blade of France's guillotine to the riots that rocked London in 2011, revolution has always been a threat to the established order. But, as **Nigel Wingrove** discovers, civil dissent in many Western nations has been neutered, and no longer has the power to change the world… →

EMBROIDERED DRESS AND PLEATED SKIRT: VIMPELOVA; BLACK LEATHER BOOTS: STYLIST'S OWN

BLACK DRESS: ERSALINA LIM; WRIST JEWELLERY: STYLIST'S OWN

While angry scenes of mob violence and social disorder are a common sight in this brave new world of 24-hour rolling news, not all instances of civic unrest are driven by the same agenda.

On closer examination there's a fine line between mass protest that becomes violent, violence that is revolutionary in itself, and violence that begins as dissent and then spirals out of control. The first has a definite objective, the second is violence and terror to enforce a cause, and the latter is violence and destruction for its own sake (though, under its riotous surface, there will certainly be a simmering cause that has caused highly-strung emotions to explode into disorder).

And while the democratic Western world we live in was shaped by revolutionary thought, many of the political ideals we value today were originally born from blood.

VIVE LA FRANCE

Modern politics is generally accepted to have begun in 1789 with the French Revolution; a savage upheaval that saw an old order, the Ancien Régime, attacked and replaced, its values and principles swept aside by torrents of aristocratic blood and superseded by new, democratic ideals.

Unfortunately, the values of the French Revolution went on to destroy many of its supporters and goals, with the new order adopting a policy of terror that saw thousands of people butchered by fanatics intent on destroying every vestige of the former ruling class, and anyone perceived as an enemy of the state. In fact, one of the movement's most important military and political leaders, Louis de Saint-Just, declared that "the vessel of the revolution can arrive in port only on a sea reddened with torrents of blood".

France's revolution was steeped in cruelty, and its favoured mode of execution – the guillotine – unleashed so much blood that deep trenches had to be dug around the wooden frame to accommodate torrents of gore.

Worse, during a period known as the September Massacres in September 1792, the revolutionary authorities in France orchestrated carnage. Fearing that Paris was in danger of being attacked by foreign armies who'd release all the people they'd imprisoned, the authorities preempted potential disaster by having all their prisoners put to death. The ensuing slaughter saw dozens of people butchered and mutilated in scenes of appalling depravity, including Princess Maria Teresa of Savoy-Carignan, a close friend of Marie Antoinette, who was raped, had her breasts and genitals cut off, and whose severed head was paraded around the city on a pike.

REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA

France's violent upheaval set the tempo for major rebellions around the globe that followed, most notably Russia's revolution of 1917 where the Bolshevicks' newspaper, *Krasnaya Gazeta*, stated "we will kill our enemies in scores of hundreds. Let them be thousands; let them drown themselves in their own blood".

After the Bolshevicks seized power in Petrograd and Moscow, a short period known as the Red Terror in 1918 saw between 50,000 and a million people killed, many of whom were victims of cruel and barbaric methods of torture.

In the city of Odessa, officers loyal to the Czar or opposed to the Bolshevicks were tied to planks and slowly lowered into fiery furnaces or vats of boiling water. In Kharkiv scalping was commonplace, as was the practice of hand-flaying where the flesh of a prisoner's hands was slowly peeled off to make skin gloves.

During this period the newly formed Cheka, Lenin's state security organisation, also used sickening methods of torture, including rolling naked prisoners around inside barrels lined with nails, crucifixion, impaling, and pouring water on naked people in the dead of winter so that they'd freeze and become ice statues. They also murdered using more commonplace methods such as firing squads, and ensured that their orders to "kill without mercy" were carried out to the letter.

ANARCHY IN THE USA

Although not as murderous as the revolutionary periods in France or Russia – or in China, where communist leader Mao Zedong declared that "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun", and proved his point by overseeing the deaths of up to 78 million people during the Cultural Revolution that began in 1966 – the United States has also experienced its own share of civil chaos.

In August 1965, the arrest of a 21-year-old black driver, Marquette Frye, was the catalyst for six days of rioting in the Watts neighbourhood of Los Angeles, which resulted in 34 deaths, 1,100 injuries and nearly 3,500 arrests. Dissent in the city had been simmering for years because of housing and job inequalities in black areas, combined with years of white prejudice and police brutality towards minority groups. And when local residents witnessed Frye being manhandled by police, the touch paper was lit.

Racially motivated riots dogged the US throughout the 1960s, and the assignation of Martin Luther King, Jr in 1968 sparked →

BLACK LEATHER JACKET
AND RED TROUSERS:
ELENA SARACENI

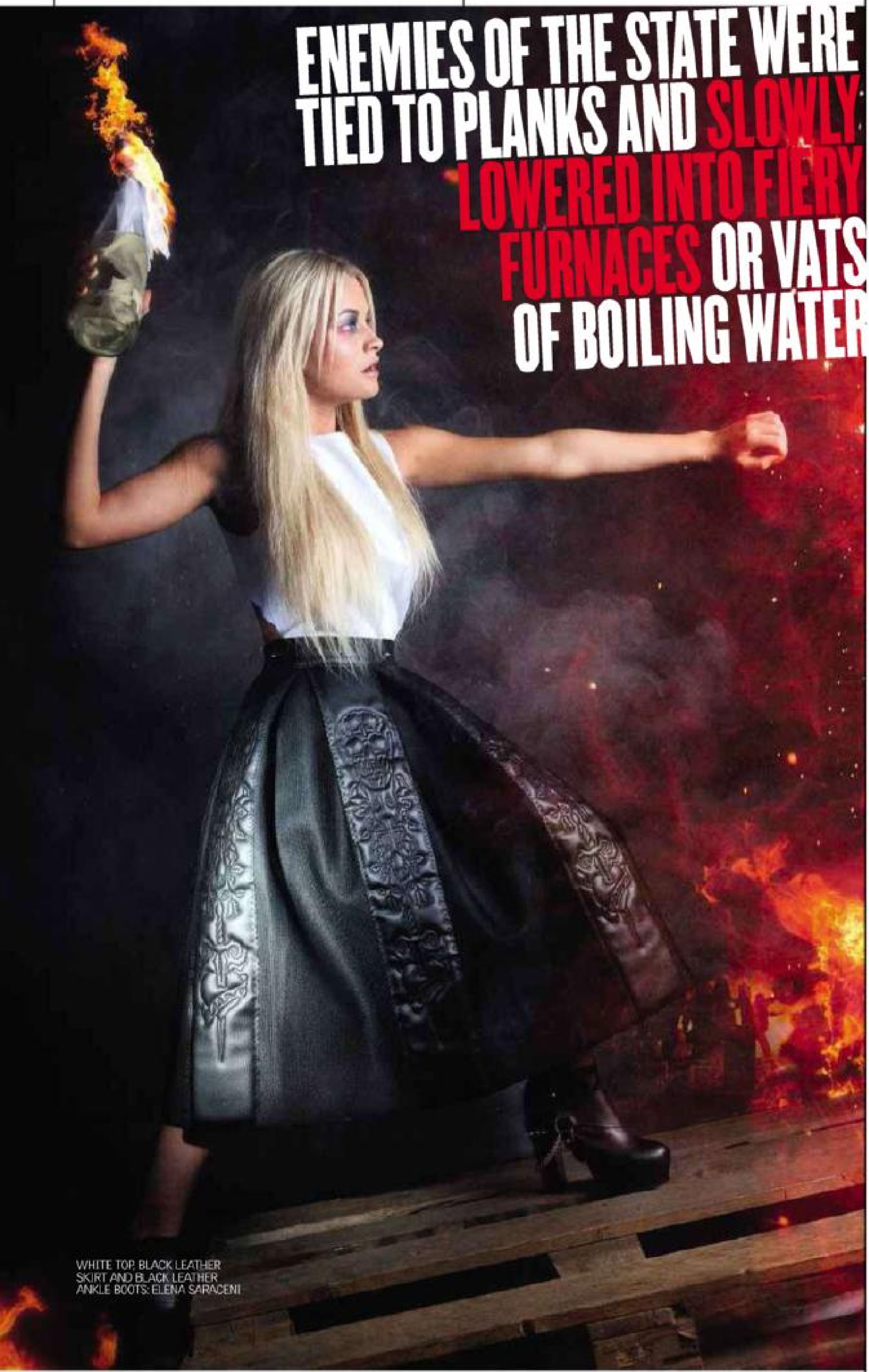
PRINCESS MARIA TERESA OF SAVOY-CARIGNAN HAD HER BREASTS AND GENITALS CUT OFF, AND HER SEVERED HEAD WAS PARADED AROUND PARIS ON A PIKE

bloody protests in several cities including Washington, Chicago and New York.

During the 1970s sporadic rioting continued to blight the US, but these protests weren't always driven by racial injustice; some were opportunistic and criminal, with no underlying social issues to blame, most notably in New York in 1977 when the city was hit by a major power cut, setting off a wave of looting and civil disorder on an unprecedented scale.

Riots sparked by racial tension returned to Los Angeles in 1992, when four police officers were filmed savagely beating a black man, Rodney King, and were acquitted at their subsequent trial. The reaction to the jury's 'not guilty' verdict was spontaneous and swift, with rioting spreading like wildfire across the city. The rampage lasted for six days, and legions of US soldiers were eventually drafted in to restore peace when the police lost control. In all, 53 people were killed and over 2,000 injured, and some 4,000 buildings were burnt down. To date, it's the worst outbreak of civil disorder the US has ever seen.

ENEMIES OF THE STATE WERE TIED TO PLANKS AND SLOWLY LOWERED INTO FIERY FURNACES OR VATS OF BOILING WATER



WHITE TOP, BLACK LEATHER SKIRT AND BLACK LEATHER ANKLE BOOTS: ELENA SARACENI

BRITISH REBELLION

Closer to home, the UK also has a modern history of violent public dissent.

The early 1980s saw outbreaks of disorder in cities such as Liverpool, London and Bristol. Many observers blamed high unemployment and the economic turmoil under the Conservative government of Margaret Thatcher for the riots, while others saw them as a reaction to controversial policing techniques, most noticeably the 'stop and search' law. Further riots rocked Birmingham and in Tottenham's Broadwater Farm estate in 1985, when Metropolitan Police constable Keith Blakelock was murdered, hacked to death by a crazed mob.

From the 1980s through to the 1990s and early 2000s, the UK was relatively quiet in terms of civic unrest. But then 2011 happened...

Although the police shooting of 29-year-old Mark Duggan was cited as the spark for the initial outbreak of violence in Tottenham, there has still been no credible reason put forward as to why the rioting spread to other London boroughs, including Croydon and Hackney, or why it then reached Manchester and other UK cities. For a moment in 2011, it looked as if Blighty was about to be plunged into anarchy.

Surprisingly, just as suddenly as the 2011 protests began, the violence stopped, order was restored and the recriminations began. But while, for some, the riots were a warning of how fragile society is and how quickly the police can lose control, it also illustrated that public dissent in the West no longer has the power it once had.

WESTERN RIOTS

Protest and revolution are driven by anger and a desire for change, and emerge when peaceful or democratic means are unavailable or oppressed. Often revolutionaries are small in number and need the general population to rise up before they can fan the flames of revolt, and exploit the turmoil for their own goals.

In recent years, as the appeal of communism and fascism have faded, politically-driven dissent has been replaced by single-issue protests, such as the British poll tax riots in the early 1990s and the May Day anti-capitalist marches of the late 1990s and 2000s. The same single-issue trend was apparent in France in 2013, where violent protests against gay marriage and abortion united Catholics and far-right splinter groups into a brief alliance that produced some of the most brutal confrontations the country has ever seen.

But while the West can still be shaken by revolutionary protest, most governments have now fine-tuned their policing techniques and are able to contain protests when they turn brutal, or at least limit violence to tolerable levels. Essentially, this had led to a style of revolution-lite, which allows for occasional skirmishes that never really have the power to challenge the State or threaten the status quo.

In other parts of the world – most notably in the Middle East, where the Arab Spring that began in 2010 has inspired those opposed to dictators or authoritarian rulers to replace them with democracies – riots still have the power to change the world. And while it's unlikely that public dissent will drive political change in the UK ever again, it's clear that emerging economies and oppressed nations can still change their lives by teaming up and fighting for what they believe in. Ⓑ

WHITE TOP, BLACK LEATHER SKIRT AND BLACK LEATHER ANKLE BOOTS: ALL ELENA SARACENI

BLACK DRESS: GARETH PUGH; BLACK LEATHER JACKET: ELENA SARACENI; BLACK LEATHER SANDALS: GIUSEPPE ZANOTTI

HAND-FLAYING WAS COMMON, WHERE THE FLESH OF A PRISONER'S HANDS WAS SLOWLY PEELED OFF TO MAKE SKIN GLOVES

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4 PULL-OUT POSTERS INSIDE!
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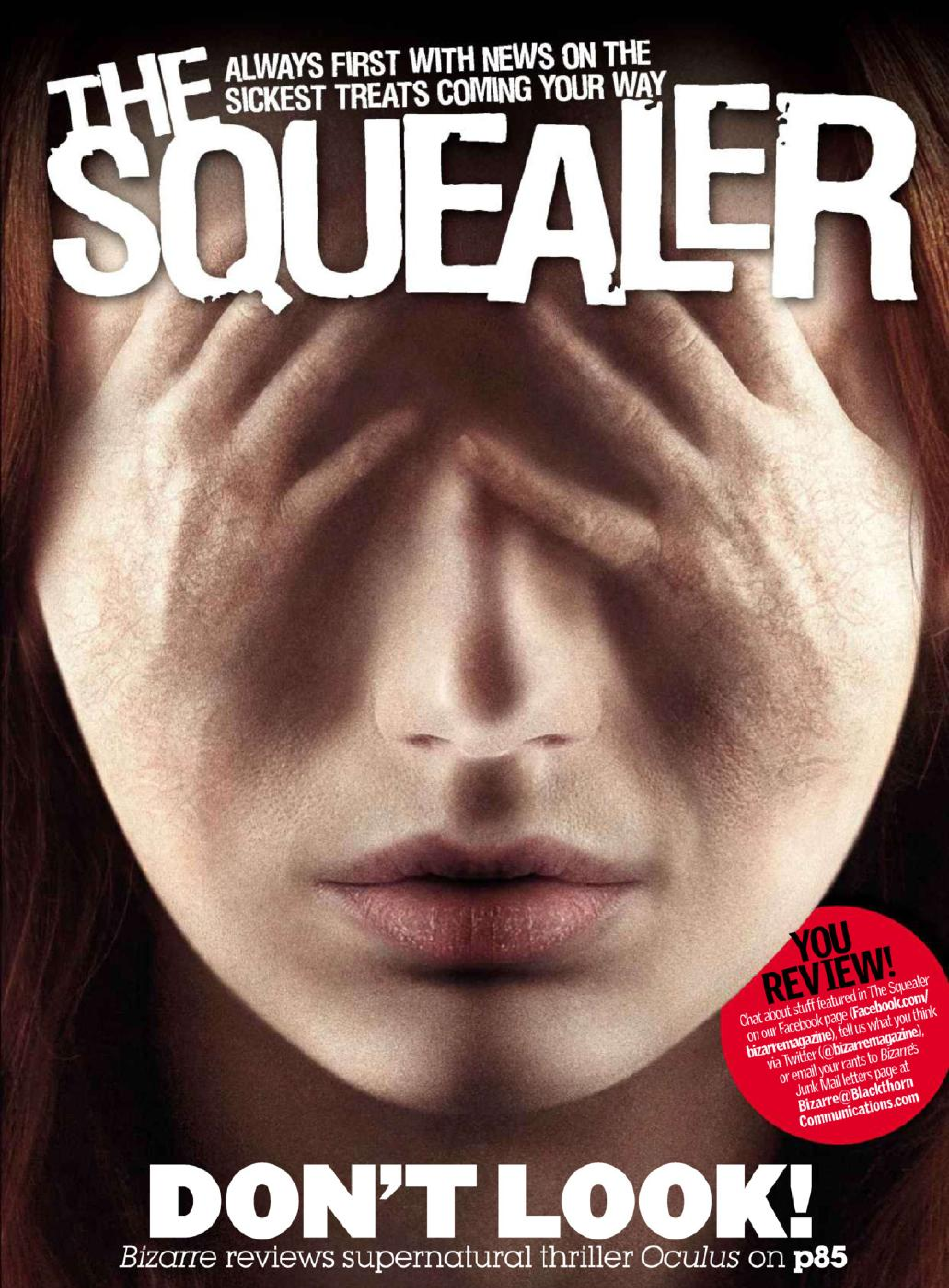

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DON'T LOOK!

Bizarre reviews supernatural thriller *Oculus* on **p85**

PLUTO

Callous Korean high school murder thriller

OUT NOW

THIS HARD-HITTING TALE ABOUT elitism, bullying and murder amongst Korean high school kids takes emotional bleakness to a new level, but in a credible and thought-provoking fashion.

Written and directed by relative newcomer Su-won Shin, it kicks-off with student Kim June being arrested for murdering one of his classmates. After questioning, June returns to school and promptly imprisons several students in a hidden basement.

What follows is a flashback dissection of the events that led to June's crime, in which he plans to wreak revenge on a clique of overprivileged kids he became embroiled with, but who proved to be a ruthless group who'll do anything to get top exam results.

Writer / director Su-Won Shin's depressingly dark vision portrays the Korean education system as being corrupt and governed by the rich, whose wealth allows them to abuse those less fortunate than themselves, in turn setting June on a self-destructive journey packed with a succession of unsettling hazing rituals. But we're not talking gratuitous, cheap thrills here; the violence is delivered in a measured style, with a tightly constructed script that continually piles on the tension to deliver a conspiracy-style murder mystery.

From the get-go Su-won Shin makes it clear that his movie is a cruel depiction of cruel people doing cruel things; so it doesn't take much imagination to figure out that a happy ending is not on the cards.

Billy Chainsaw

A CRUEL DEPICTION OF CRUEL PEOPLE DOING CRUEL THINGS

OCULUS

OUT 13 JUNE

An old-fashioned ghost story that harks back to classic chillers such as Roman Polanski's *Repulsion*, *Oculus* shuns modern horror clichés and uses skilful direction to create an atmosphere of unbearable tension. And while some horror hounds will be left gagging for more gore and violence, *Oculus* is still a genuinely scary flick that'll leave your skin crawling and nerves jangled.

DEVIL'S KNOT

OUT 13 JUNE

A fictionalised account of a real-life triple murder that rocked Memphis in 1993, *Devil's Knot* doesn't add much to a harrowing tale that's already been told in books and documentaries. But with its dramatic delivery, Atom Egoyan's movie does a fine job of bringing the players to life, and is an effective way to feel closer to those involved in the tragedy.

THE ANOMALY

OUT 4 JULY

Noel Clarke – who many will remember as Mickey Smith in *Doctor Who* – is a busy man. As well as helming two mini-series so far this year, *The Anomaly* is his second big screen director credit of 2014. The story of a soldier imprisoned by mind-controlling villains, this is a fast sci-fi thriller with stylish combat, roaring guns, and a fine turn from Brian Cox (below).

AFTER

Monster thriller proves that sometimes less is best…

OUT NOW

STEPHEN KING FANS WILL lap up this dark urban fantasy about a young couple involved in a bus crash who, on regaining consciousness, discover they may be the only people alive on the planet. Worse, they're surrounded by an omnipresent, fog-like cloud that contains a hideous creature intent on making them its next meal.

In his feature film debut, writer / director Ryan Smith dispenses with exposition and dives headlong into weird territory, with what's best described as a creepy mash-up of King's novella *The Mist* and videogame spin-off *Silent Hill*, both in its subdued, washed-out appearance and reality-shifting tone.

While Smith delivers absorbing visuals and never labours the plot, what really delivers the goods is the movie's lead double-act –*The Covenant*'s Stephen Strait and *True Blood*'s Karolin Wydra – who embrace the fantastical premise and convincingly portray people who are thrust into a far-fetched situation.

The only thing that lets *After* down is its snarling monster. It's not that the computer-generated creature is particularly dreadful; it simply gets a little too much on-screen exposure, which dilutes its ability to terrify. That said, the beastie's slavering ferocity is still unnerving and fun to watch.

Rather than delivering an out-and-out horror experience, *After* does a decent job as a comicbook thrill-ride that's high on atmospherics and is brought screaming to life by well-drawn characters.

Billy Chainsaw

STRANGER BY THE LAKE

OUT NOW

A subtitled, explicit, minimalist thrill-kill chiller set in the French countryside, *Stranger By The Lake* is the story of a murder committed by a cruising homosexual male who's simply grown tired of his latest fuck. It's an emotive ride that owes as much to the films of Alfred Hitchcock as it does to Italian director Pier Paolo Pasolini. **Billy Chainsaw**

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE MARKED ONES

OUT NOW

If the found footage genre is beginning to get on your nerves, the latest *Paranormal Activity* will bore your tits off. A confusing plot, stale ideas and long periods of tedious nothingness make this a poor showing for a horror series that once chilled our bones.

WE ARE THE FREAKS

OUT NOW

A snapshot of the lives of a group of teens in early 1990s Thatcher-led Britain, *We Are The Freaks* falls flat. It aims for *Inbetweeners*-type humour but only made us huff a few mildly amused nostril puffs rather than cackle, the story's so tired that it's almost comatose, and there's audio tumbleweed where there should be a cracking 90s soundtrack. **Alix Fox**

REAL HORROR SHOW!

BILLY CHAINSAW

THIS MONTH: *FOR ELISA*

All the latest news from *Bizarre*'s free film club, CUT!

"CUT! is the monthly *Bizarre* film club that I've organised and hosted for almost four years, where we screen some of the most strange, violent and downright arty movies doing the rounds.

"Not only is each movie screened at CUT! an exclusive preview of a yet-to-be released theatrical or DVD / Blu-ray title, but we also throw in a free alcoholic beverage or soft drink for you to sup on while you're watching. And in keeping with *Bizarre*'s love of the unusual, the event always takes place in the creepy confines of London's legendary Horse Hospital; a venue which, as the name suggests, was where ill or injured nags were taken for treatment in Victorian times.

"In essence, the CUT! experience is like sitting in a huge living room with a bunch of mates, watching films on a giant screen (aside from the fact that none of you have a lounge haunted by dead horses. I swear something ghostly and equine breathed down my neck a few months ago while I was setting up...)

"This month I want to tell you about the brilliantly tense and creepy chiller *For Elisa*. This subtitled Spanish flick follows the fortunes of a fine art student named Ana who needs money... and quick. When neither her mother nor drug-dealing boyfriend cough-up the readies, Ana takes on a job as a child minder for the titular Elisa. However, her new employer turns out to be a nutjob, and after Ana passes out during the interview she wakes up to find herself tied to a chair and dressed like a doll. She's subsequently kept a prisoner – the unwilling participant in a fucked-up, living nightmare.

"Although simple in construction and execution, first time feature writer / director Juanra Fernández delivers a compelling flick that plays less like a full-blown horror and more like a thrilling suspense movie, spliced with moments of out-and-out, full-tilt nuttiness. *For Elisa* also features one of the most insane mother / daughter relationships ever seen on the silver screen – if you think Kathy Bates took the biscuit as a possessive tormentor in Rob Reiner's big screen adaptation of Stephen Kings' *Misery*, wait to you get a load of Luisa Gavasa's performance as Elisa's mum!

"Ultimately, *For Elisa* is one of the strangest European genre flicks you'll see this year. And judging by their raucous reaction, the CUT! crowd thinks this Spanish chiller is going to be a huge hit.

For Elisa is released on DVD on 30 June

IF YOU LIKE *FOR ELISA* YOU MIGHT LIKE *HOUSE OF THE DEVIL (2009)*

THE HOUSE OF THE DEVIL

This supernatural thriller follows a student named Samantha who's trying to rustle up some rent money. A quick-buck scheme sees her agreeing to look after the mother of an old gent while he and his missus watch a lunar eclipse. Regrettably, Sam finds herself tormented by satanic forces and fighting for her life. Writer / director Ti West (*The Innkeepers*) delivers a pitch perfect replica of a late 1970s / early 1980s exploitation flick where everything feels authentic, from the oversaturated colour palette right down to everyone looking like they've stepped off the set of *Black Christmas*.

WHO'S THIS?

Billy Chainsaw is *Bizarre*'s Film And DVD Editor, and he also runs our regular FREE film club in London, CUT! (cast your eyes right to see what sick treats Billy has in store at the next screening).

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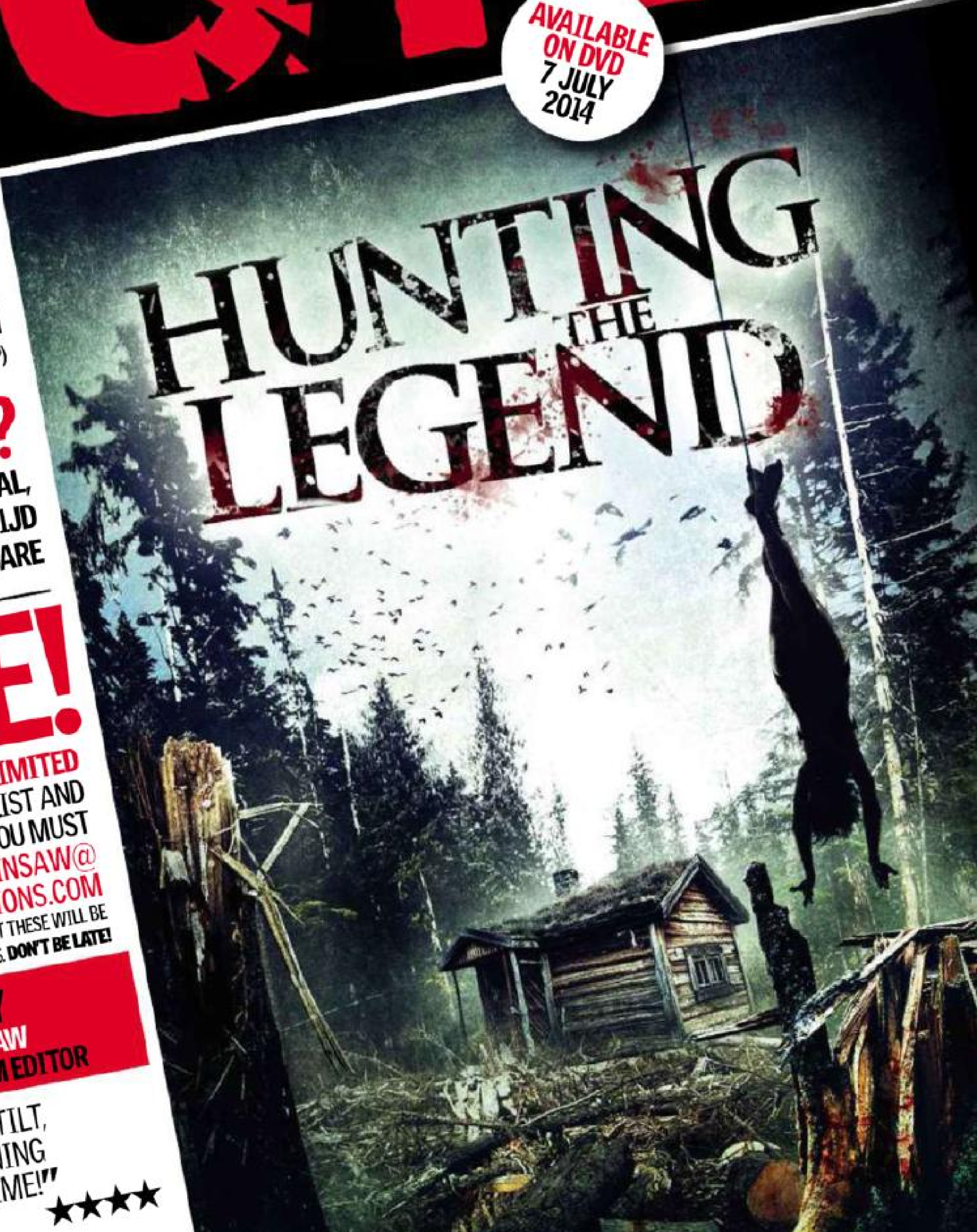

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THE SOFT PINK

Baltimore-based electro whizz **Drew Daniel** gives black metal classics a provocatively gay makeover with his new covers album, *Why Do The Heathen Rage*. Pump up the volume…

WHY DO THE HEATHEN RAGE

OUT NOW

One half of the electronic duo Matmos, Drew Daniel is no stranger to pulling radical punches. In his latest solo project, under the guise of The Soft Pink Truth, the gay, real-life literary professor has subverted black metal nasties by Venom, Mayhem and Darkthrone into twists of über-cool electronica. These aren't cheap parodies, either – strong political messages drive this oddball release.

PICTURES: MC SCHMIDT

Q&A DREW DANIEL – MASTERMIND

***Why Do The Heathen Rage* is a covers album of black metal songs, which you've transformed into sultry house numbers. Are you paying homage to black metal, or are you taking the piss?**

The record is born out of great love and great hatred. I enjoy black metal, but I find the political attitudes and the wilful cowardice surrounding the stance that fans take frustrating. So I wanted to attack, pervert and mangle the pleasure of rocking out to macho riffs by forcing those patterns into genres that I assume most black metal fans loathe; namely a gay, camp, dancefloor sensibility. But I wouldn't spend time learning how to transform these songs if I didn't think they were amazing pieces of music in the first place.

Can you elaborate on the "wilful cowardice" and stances you refer to?

It's specifically to do with the homophobic murder of a gay man, Magne Andreassen, by a member of Norwegian band Emperor at a known cruising spot. When that band gets talked about, even in the seemingly hipster-approved documentary *Until The Light Takes Us* (2009), Andreassen is referred to as a "faggot" and there's no critical response. To me, as a gay man, that tells me that black metal fandom is a straight privilege. So part of this record was saying "fuck you"! I understand that the crimes of the early 1990s are not the only yardstick by which black metal should be measured – but it's important people don't look the other way and jerk off about the coolness of evil, which even goes as far as the killing of gay men.

What are your views on some of the satanic ideologies that some black metal claims to embrace?

Satanism is flexible – it can mean different things to different people. Some people use it as a vague stance against organised religion. Other

WHY DO THE HEATHEN RAGE TRACKLISTING

Here's a quick rundown on the tracks being, er, 'de-evilfied'…

1. 'Invocation For Strength' (featuring Antony Hegarty)
2. 'Black Metal' (originally performed by Venom)
3. 'Sadomatic Rites' (originally performed by Beherit)
4. 'Ready To Fuck' (originally performed by Sarcofago)
5. 'Satanic Black Devotion' (originally performed by Sargeist)
6. 'Beholding The Throne Of Might' (originally performed by Darkthrone)
7. 'Let There Be Ebola Frost' (originally performed by An)
8. 'Buried By Time And Dust' (originally performed by Mayhem)
9. 'Maniac' (originally performed by Hellhammer)
10. 'Grim And Frostbitten Gay Bar' (originally performed by Impaled Northern Moonforest)

TRUTH

"MY AIM IS TO TURN BLACK METAL'S MOST SACRED IMAGES OF IDENTITY AND AUTHENTICITY INTO QUEER PORN" DREW DANIELS

people genuinely embrace evil, torture, murder and church burnings. For others it's shorthand for a libertarian philosophy about personal freedom. For me, I tend to understand it in terms of parental drama of defiance; the ultimate father is God, so satanism suits teenage adolescent rebellion because it's a way of claiming affiliation to an absolute form of resistance. But after 10-30 years of black metal artwork, it's become deeply conformist to regurgitate satanic clichés. It's not rebellious any longer – it's branding. That's what sells T-shirts. Most people wearing these satanic symbols don't believe in them – it's black metal as insincere music. So it's always interesting to me when someone flips the formula, whether we're talking about a religious black metal band, which sounds amazing, or where I've dragged black metal lyrics and riffs through an imaginary gay club where everyone's shirt is off!

The soulful female vocals on 'Ready To Fuck' and 'Let There Be Ebola Frost' are particularly recalcitrant towards the genre...
I'm glad you mentioned 'Ready To Fuck'. The cliché is that black metal avoids sexuality, but there are plenty of black metal songs about sex, and these are generally fantasies about power and male control. So for 'Ready To Fuck' I used a female vocal and filled it with sounds of female pleasure. I also incorporated raw audio of gay sex from my archives of soundtracking gay porn. The song became a polymorphic, bisexual orgy that flips male power fantasies. It lives up to the ridiculousness of the Sarcofago original, but it also renders it queer and playful. I had a lot of fun making that song. And part of that fun came from being faithful in one way, then really trashing it on another level. I think it's hilarious.

Elsewhere, your cover of Darkthrone's 'Beholding The Throne Of Might' is described as being "vogue ball inspired". I never imagined Darkthrone ever being associated with voguing...
Yeah, it's weird. Fenriz from Darkthrone actually makes really fantastic ambient music, and is genuinely into techno and house. I'd love to believe Fenriz would be down with what I've done to his song, but I'm not going to cry if he says it sucks. I didn't really make it to win love or respect.

Are you expecting black metal fans to hate your record?
I'd be disappointed if they didn't. Black metal as a subculture is obsessed with authenticity. I love black metal. I buy lots of it. I go to lots of black metal shows. I'm not just pointing the finger in some self-serving, self-righteous way. I'm simply making a queer and anti-racist response, and saying there are parts of this culture that are really fucked up, and that too many people look the other way. But I'm not saying, "Let's laugh at these idiots, aren't we better than them?" Black metal at its best articulates extreme feelings of anger and fear that I think are relevant and real, especially the endless scenarios of annihilation and mass death. Those scenarios are rooted in the reality of what we're facing as capitalism marches this planet towards irreversible climate change. Black metal is the culture that makes you think about planetary death. But I don't want to valorise it by saying if you care about the planet earth you should like black →

"I'VE DRAGGED BLACK METAL THROUGH AN IMAGINARY GAY CLUB WHERE EVERYONE'S SHIRT IS OFF!" DREW DANIELS

metal, and I don't want to whitewash its hateful side. I'm drawn to black metal for emotional reasons. I wouldn't have spent hours creating these covers if I didn't identify with them on some level. But I'm also not a teenager. I'm an academic in his mid-40s who teaches Shakespeare and Milton at the John Hopkins University in Baltimore. And I think reflecting on fandom and the tension between fantasy and reality is important, like asking whether we love this music because it makes us feel something we're not. That's embarrassing, but it's worth thinking about. Part of covering a song is showing how much you like something, but also flagging how different you are from it. After all, I'm not Cronos from Venom.

Guests on the record include transgender vocalist Antony Hegarty of Antony & The Johnsons. What did he think about appearing on the record?

I've been playing music with my friend Antony for several years, but I had to explain the context in which I wanted him to appear. Antony is not a lover of black metal by any means, and he doesn't necessarily endorse the views expressed in the songs we've covered. However, black metal records often begin with an ominous intro track that establishes a mood, and a lot of them involve spoken word horror samples or evocations of a dark spirituality. I felt it would be interesting to play by those rules and do that with my record, but to replace the spirituality with an androgynous embrace of a totally different attitude. So I picked the poem by Moonrose Shaundel Angeles, which appears in a 1978 text called *Witchcraft And The Gay Counterculture*. The poem expresses this radical fairy stance against capitalism and alienation, and invokes a divine spirit of destruction, but is a sort of goddess Kali figure. Antony's voice is compelling because it's beyond gender and has a unique sound – but, to me, it's a female energy which isn't necessarily a woman. There's a trans effect that his voice produces which is challenging to the normative masculinity of metal culture. You don't ever hear femme or trans voices in black metal music.

Interestingly, you also do a few of the black metal howls yourself. How was that?

I live next door to a fraternity house and hear frat boys partying all day long. So it was awesome to scream these ridiculous, obscene things and realise my neighbours were being subjected to it. Terence Hannum from Chicago drone rockers Locrian contributed too, and he can really do the black metal screech like an insane motherfucker. It just sounds so OTT, especially as the lyrics in the song we did ('Satanic Black Devotion' by Sargeist) are so extreme. It reaches this tipping point of absurdity.

Then there's the crazy, cartoon orgy album artwork which is likely to attract controversy...

I feel that the album artwork is probably even more aggressive in taking on the black metal image than the music. In this case, it's turning corpse-painted, black metal occult warriors into hardcore gay pornography. That's a deliberate act of provocation. My aim is serious, though. It's to push back against the homophobic murder of Andreassen by turning black metal's most sacred images of identity and authenticity into queer porn. My goal is to offend a community that, in my mind, is guilty of homophobic and racist murders. And so I want to ruin the fun of putting on corpse-paint. But I don't have silly illusions that one record is going to change an entire community's self image or attitude. But even if you don't put this record on, once you've seen it, your eyes can't unsee it.

Stephen Daultrey

BLOODY HAMMERS
UNDER SATAN'S SUN

OUT NOW

To anyone who follows football, Bloody Hammers might be the name of a fanclub of irate West Ham fans. To everyone else, they're a band of well-regarded desert rockers singing about weird, evil things, and rocking large like the 1970s never stopped. The album art is freakin' *far out* and the crunchy riffs are catchy, but we can't help but wonder what they might sound like if The Soft Pink Truth covered them.

DEATHSTARS
THE PERFECT CULT

OUT 16 JUNE

Sounding, in places, spookily similar to fellow Scandinavian Goth-jobs 69 Eyes, Sweden's Deathstars psych us up with a fourth studio album full of pumped, Gothy choruses and lashings of camp theatrical terror. Ace opener 'Explode' literally, er, explodes. Meanwhile, the title 'All The Devil's Toys' reminds us of an inverted cross dildo that was recently sent to us by the band Morgue Orgy.

WOVENHAND
REFRACTORY OBDURATE

OUT NOW

We love Wovenhand. We discovered them through Spotify (after listening to a lot of Mark Lanegan and Joy Division), and now we can't get enough. They regale biblical tales and ideologies in a gritty, accessible manner, blending Gothic Americana, rootsy blues, and eerie world music in one jubilant binge. That we've yet to meet anyone else who has heard of them remains both a mystery and sacrilege.

OPIUM WARLORDS
TASTE MY SWORD OF UNDERSTANDING

OUT NOW

It's amazing how many bands we've discovered through liking their name. So while we've yet again overlooked Powerman 5,000 due to mistaking them for muscle supplement, we've been enjoying the macabre, avant-garde histrionics of Opium Warlords (AKA Sami Albert Hynninen). The tracks here were written between 1994 and 2009, and are a mesmeric mix of tranquillity and nastiness.

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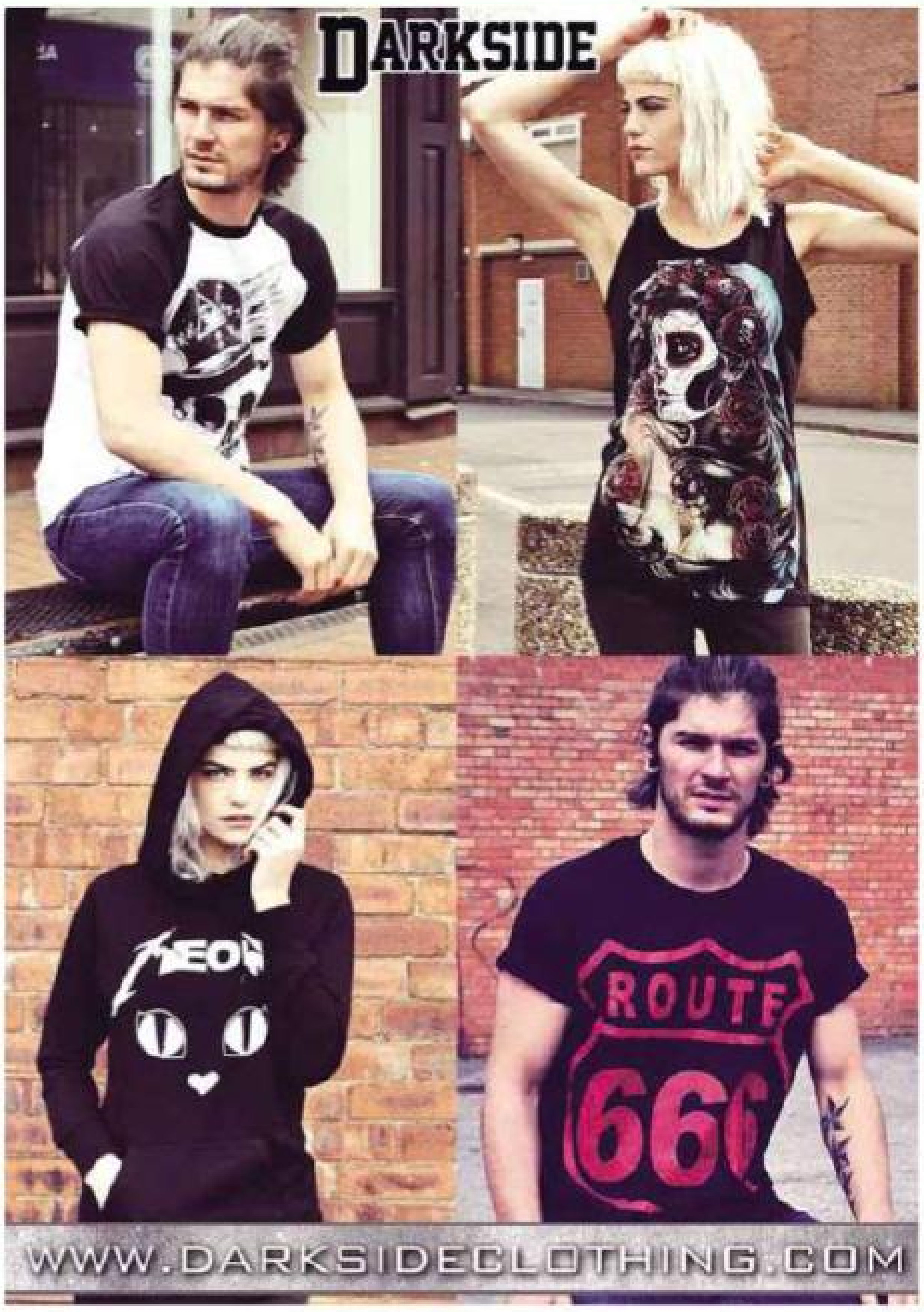
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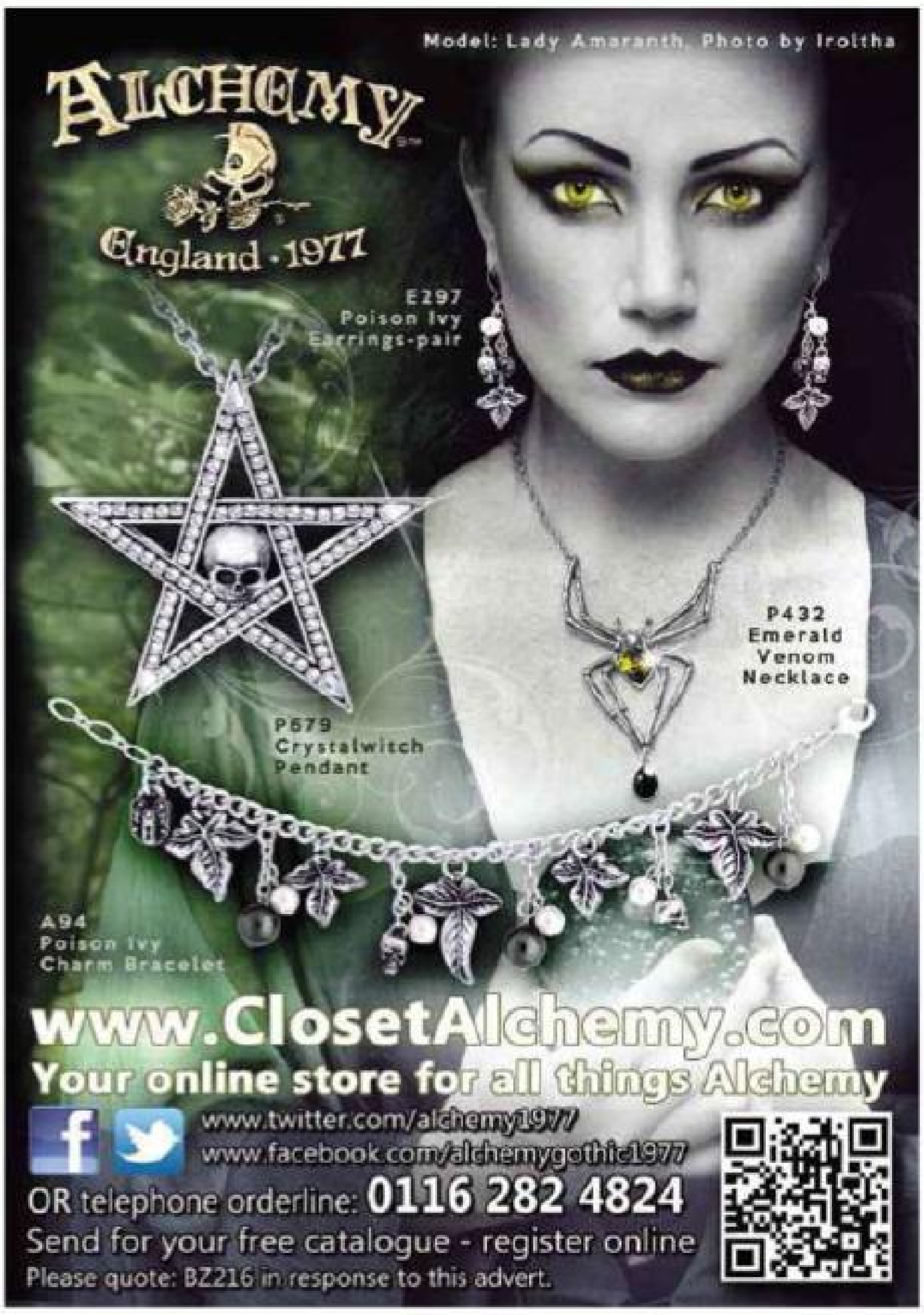
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